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BY JEAN TEPPERMAN

The Battle Over Live-Work Communities 11
Proponents say that they'll spur green tech in West Berkeley, but opponents say they'll create conflicts.

Will Your Coffee Still Be Fair Trade? 13
Critics say that new policies will undermine the fair-trade industry

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On the Cover *Photograph by Stephen Loewinsohn.*

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NEWS & OPINION

EAST BAY EXPRESS

HOW THE PRISON POPULATION EXPLODED

LETTERS

[illegible]

Vote Your Conscience

Thanks to Joaquin Palomino for an excellent article that voters should read! Education would benefit not only prison inmates, but also California voters who have made the wrong choices on their ballots so that our prison system has gone from pretty good (low recidivism) to pretty terrible (high recidivism). Sounds a lot like what happened to our K-12 education system, which has gone from being among the best in the country with highest per-pupil spending to being among the worst, with lowest per-pupil spending, thanks in large part to Prop. 13. We can't blame elected officials for doing things that we allowed them to do by voting for them!

Ruby I MacDonald, El Cerrito

Indeterminate Sentencing Is Just the Beginning

While your recent article on mass incarceration provided helpful information on how parole boards and governor vetoes contribute to prison overcrowding by not releasing people in a timely fashion, it was not telling the full story.

Most notably, in an article on mass incarceration, there was no mention of the intensely racist nature of the system. According to the Public Policy Institute of California, "among adult men in 2010, African Americans were incarcerated at a rate of 5,525 per 100,000, compared to 1,146 for Latinos and 671 for whites." The percentage of people of color enduring the torture of solitary confinement for years and sometimes decades is even higher — 90 percent.

Oddly, the article also makes no mention of the drug war, which has been raging in low-income communities of color for decades. Politicians use the lives of black and brown young men as a ticket to winning elections. Not one politician went to prison for the Iran Contra drug scandal. They declared the drug war as drug use was actually declining, flooded our communities with drugs, and now don't want to do rehabilitation. This is their mess. The vast majority of drug arrests are minor offenses, with no history of selling activity.

As to the huge increase in recidivism since the Seventies: The change to determinate sentencing is a far cry from being the primary factor. Since that time, federal benefits that used to help people get back on their feet have been taken away. Those convicted of drug offenses (the majority of our prison population) are banned by law from receiving public assistance, living in public housing, and even receiving food stamps. Getting a job as an ex-felon is nearly impossible. How are people supposed to survive? It's like being given shoes with needles in them and asked to walk a hundred miles on ice — you're probably not going to make it.

In addition, many of those in California prisons were born into communities already traumatized by poverty, oppression, and police violence — and then sent into prisons where they're further traumatized by abuse and dehumanization. After leaving prison, these deeply traumatized people go back into the same wounded community. What do we expect will happen?

Education for young people in our communities is sadly lacking. What school systems cannot do, however, we can do for ourselves. Some of the most powerful writing has come from young men in prison who have educated themselves against all the odds. We encourage those who want to understand what's really going on with mass incarceration to check out Michelle Alexander's YouTube presentation on her book *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. Or better yet, read it!

Jack Bryson, Oscar Grant Movement
Denise Mewbourne, Occupy 4 Prisoners

Tough Questions

This is a tough one. No one wants to be victimized by a former inmate. Perhaps the answer is a full-court press to educate inmates and make that a part of a reduced-sentence incentive. The other piece is to circumvent the life of crime at an early age. This will take a monumental manpower effort. Is society willing to spend the time and money to change a mass subculture of dysfunctional people? Or are we better off locking them up with minimal effort put forth and letting them rot?

Don Sandri, Hayward

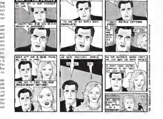
Re: [illegible] Oakland, Feb [illegible]

What's the Problem?

Good article. Another specious argument always put forth by the anti-RCV crowd is that (as in the Oakland example) Perata "got the most votes." Having the "most votes," however, doesn't win the election — either by the old system or RCV. What wins the day is a majority — that is, greater than 50 percent of the vote. Perata did not get more than 50 percent of the vote.

David Cohen, Oakland

Berkeley Sutton, Plastics Problem, Eco Watch, 4/11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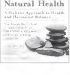
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Plastic Is the Problem

I worked for the Ecology Center recycling trucks in Berkeley from 1984-1989, during which time I also worked for Community Conservation Center for a period where I drove the rolloff truck that delivered the materials. I was an environmental activist and involved in the process and the issues regarding it.

The reason that we refused to accept plastics is that they cannot really be recycled, i.e., you cannot make a new recycled plastic bottle out of a used one. We wanted to discourage the use of plastics so as not give people a false sense of doing the right thing by accepting it for phony recycling.

So, I was rather dismayed to read yet another article in your paper touting on plastic recycling." While we agree that it's always better to keep things out of landfills, the environment would be much better served by articles showing the harms done by plastic consumption from "cradle to grave." Showing how plastics are made from petroleum, the toxic chemicals created by their manufacture, the off-gassing of chemicals by all plastics, and the wildlife that suffers from discarded plastic pollution would be a good starting point.

The problem here is the plastics themselves, not whether they're turned in to make other plastic products. Ideally, disposable plastics should be completely eliminated. We need a campaign for this, not for phony recycling of plastics. The laws that are beginning to take hold banning plastic bags are a good start.

Jeff Hoffman, Oakland

In Defense of Hills-Dwellers

I'm sorry that Robert Gamman feels it necessary to paint hills residents as a bunch of whining One Percenters. Most of us are working-class people. We pay the highest tax rates in the city and use very few services. We don't live in Contra Costa County because we value the rich cultural environment of Oakland (and the great weather, landscape, values, etc.). Yet when we are justifiably concerned about a crime wave, we are mocked. I like to think that the *Express* is a better publication than to take indiscriminate pot shots, but evidently that isn't always the case.

Berkeley Choate, Oakland

Scaring Us Straight

The Feds cannot actively spend the time, money, and resources necessary to go after every dispensary. They are hoping these tactics — and the publicity — will scare enough landlords and operators to close out of fear that they are in imminent danger of federal prosecution. They are hoping to create policy precedents that will make normal legitimate dispensary operation impossible as far as full tax compliance goes. Federal drug and tax laws are set up as a stacked deck against what dispensaries do as they simply allow for no distinctions to be made between a state-sanctioned dispensary and an underground pot dealer. They're hoping to get their policy working as a trump card that begins a rollback of what has already occurred. This is a terrible abuse of power and an act of tyrannical oppression.

Ned Hoey, Santa Cruz

The Draw(backs) of Out-of-Town Talent

Three decades after Reagan, government arts funding is still considered dirty and a "waste of taxpayer dollars" — unlike, say, the cost of production of a Predator drone. The consolidation among media entities has lately meant another lobbying arm arguing against government funding of the arts, in order to stifle possible sources of competition.

Where I live in Brooklyn, the Royal Shakespeare Company sends out touring productions and they are feted like stars and praised to the heavens. But local theater companies have to subsist on crumbs of paltry city funding. How can local organizations starved of public money even attempt to make headway against massively subsidized touring companies from abroad? The answer is, they can't.

Why hire out-of-town talent? TV. Theater employees, from artistic director on down to the lower-level staffers, have to dedicate themselves to developing an aesthetic and thereby an audience. But the lazy choice is to hire people with TV credits so Mr. and Mrs. Bourgeois can go home satisfied their ticket money wasn't a waste. This has been endemic to nonprofit regional theater since Reagan. Nothing has changed, and nothing seems likely to change any time soon.

Kevin Hogan, Brooklyn, New York

Protect Human Life — All of It

The point that the health care debate is about us and them is well written and logical. They are the One Percent who control the system and the rest are us. The poor are exploited and marginalized in favor of the rich. We are moving toward a world in which human life is not valued except monetarily. I agree. Human life is more important than money. That which I find missing in this analysis is that the health care bill provides for the largest expansion of abortion in the US ever. Human life is more important than money, so, you may add me to those who want the health-care bill rescinded.

Matthew Vogler, Little Rock, Arkansas

Europe's Not Worth the Expense

All nonprofit companies (including municipalities) serving the American public should buy local. Why buy European vehicles? We don't get tax benefits, plus we have to pay for shipments.

Anna Avellar, Berkeley

Letters Policy

Please provide your full name, address, and daytime phone number, although we will only print your name, city, and affiliation. Send submissions to Letters@EastBayExpress.com or Letters, *East Bay Express*, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA 94607. Letters are edited for length and clarity.

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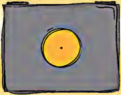

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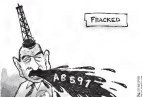
SEVEN DAYS

RANKED-CHOICE VOTING REPEAL BLOCKED

Signature-gathering fails and there are not enough votes on the city council.

By Robert Gammon



It looks as if the effort to repeal ranked-choice voting in Oakland has unraveled already. A group with close ties to ex-state Senator **Don Perata**'s campaign manager admitted to the *Oakland Tribune* that it won't be able to gather the 20,000 signatures needed to qualify its proposal for the November ballot. And an alternative plan by Oakland Councilman **Ignacio De La Fuente**, a longtime close friend and ally of Perata's, to ask the city council to place the measure directly on the ballot does not have the necessary votes.

De La Fuente, who plans to run for mayor this fall if there's a recall election, has been a longtime opponent of ranked-choice voting, also known as instant runoff voting. He worked with Perata in 2010 in an attempt to block Oakland from using it, even though 69 percent of city voters had approved the voting system. Perata later blamed ranked-choice voting for his loss in the 2010 mayor's race to **Jean Quan**. Perata received more first place votes than Quan did, but she garnered far more seconds and thirds, enabling her to win.

Earlier this month, **Melquis Naveo**, an employee of Perata's 2010 campaign manager **Larry Tramutola**, told the *Express* that his group was forging ahead with a signature-gathering effort to qualify the anti-ranked-choice measure for the November election. But then the *Trib* reported Naveo saying that his group instead had decided to depend on De La Fuente to take it to the council. Naveo acknowledged that his group, which was originally launched by Tramutola, was not going to be able to gather the necessary signatures.

But De La Fuente's plan quickly failed because he couldn't muster five votes in addition to himself. Councilmembers **Larry Reid**, **Desley Brooks**, and **Jane Brunner** have expressed opposition to ranked-choice voting in the past. But Councilwomen **Rebecca Kaplan** and **Nancy Nadel** have strongly supported the voting system. In addition, Councilwoman **Libby Schaaf**, who won election in 2010 when ranked-choice voting was used for the first time in Oakland, told the *Express* that she would not vote to put the measure on the ballot.

De La Fuente's one hope was Councilwoman **Pat Kernighan**. Although Kernighan has supported ranked-choice voting previously, she had been considering De La Fuente's proposal as an alternative to what she thought was going to be a controversial petition gathering drive, the *Trib* reported. But once it became clear that Naveo's group had failed, Kernighan said she would not back De La Fuente's plan.

The *Trib*, meanwhile, also reported that Brunner plans to bring to the council a separate ballot measure being pushed by Naveo's group that would establish term limits for city councilmembers. This proposal, however, is much less controversial — although Reid said he would oppose it.

It also should be noted that Tramutola had a financial interest in seeing both ballot measures pass. If ranked-choice voting were to be repealed, then Oakland would go back to having June primaries in addition to November runoffs, which means there would be more elections — and thus more campaigns — for Tramutola to work on. Also, term limits would result in more competitive council races, which would provide him with additional opportunities to be hired as a campaign manager.

With that in mind, Kaplan, Kernighan, Nadel, and Schaaf made the right decision to oppose De La Fuente's plan. More than two-thirds of Oakland voters approved ranked-choice voting the last time it was on the ballot. And so if it is to be repealed, then it's up to Tramutola and his employees to do the hard work of gathering signatures — and not for De La Fuente to do an end run around the democratic process.

Score One for Big Oil

The power and influence that Big Oil and Gas wield in California were on display once again last week in Sacramento. Lobbyists for large oil and gas conglomerates forced East Bay Assemblyman **Bob Wieckowski** to water down legislation he wrote that seeks to regulate fracking in the state, the *LA Times* reported.

Hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, is the controversial practice of shooting toxic chemicals and water into the earth to release otherwise hard-to-extract natural gas and oil. Fracking has led to a boom in natural gas production in the United States, and has sparked a backlash from environmentalists and consumer advocates over concerns about groundwater contamination and other pollution problems.

Wieckowski's bill originally sought to require oil and gas companies to disclose exactly which chemicals they use in their fracking wells. But his legislation stalled last year when lobbyists convinced enough legislators in the state capitol to block it. The companies, which also are among the biggest campaign donors in state politics, said they didn't want to reveal their "trade secrets." As a result, Wieckowski, who is from Fremont, has weakened his bill to the point that it would allow oil and gas companies to not disclose the chemicals they pump into the earth if they file a "trade secrets" claim with state regulators.

In the event of an emergency, state officials could compel the companies to reveal which chemicals they use, but only if state officials promise not to disclose the information to the public. Although Wieckowski's bill represents an improvement over the current nonexistent regulations governing fracking because it would require oil and gas companies to disclose the locations of their fracking wells, the weakness of the amended legislation serves as another reminder of the juice Big Oil and Gas continues to enjoy even in blue states like California.

Bay Guardian to be Sold

The owners of the *San Francisco Examiner* are close to buying the *San Francisco Bay Guardian*, the Bay Area's oldest alt weekly. *Bay Guardian* Executive Editor Tim Redmond told the *Express* last week that he's "very optimistic" the deal would be inked soon. "I think we'll probably sign a deal, but it's not yet done," he said.

Earlier, two sources had told the *Express* that the deal was done. But Redmond said that while the sale is close to being finalized, it is not yet complete. "We're in negotiations, and we're very optimistic," he said.

The Bay Guardian was founded in 1966 and has been a vociferous defender of progressive politics for several decades. The *Examiner*, originally founded by the Hearst family, and later owned by right wing billionaire Philip Anschutz, was recently purchased by a group of investors under the moniker San Francisco Newspaper Company LLC. ■

Staff writer Rachel Swan contributed to this report.

Seven Days is culled from our news blog, 92510.

Robert.Gammon@EastBayExpress.com

APOTHECARIUM'S FULL HOUSE OF STYLE

Danny Tanner meets Jack Herer at the chic Castro district dispensary

By David Downs

All across the world, newspapers are talking about the fate of California's medical marijuana industry. Even the *Irish Times* covered the seven month-old crackdown after the Oaksterdam raid, writing on April 11: "Patients with marijuana prescriptions are facing the threat that their medicinal drug of choice may soon be no longer legally available."

Reading such statements may lead some to think that medical marijuana in California will be reduced to smoldering remains. The reality is both the California Constitution and state law protect access to the drug. US Attorney Melinda Haag has forced five permitted San Francisco dispensaries to move, shut down, or go delivery-only, but she also said she lacks the resources to close all dispensaries in Northern California, and said she is focusing on those close to schools or playgrounds.

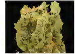
Twenty-two San Francisco dispensaries are open, with more in the planning department's pipeline. Elsewhere in the Bay Area, San Jose is thriving, Richmond has re-booted, and Oakland is defiant. Even sleepy Palo Alto likely will vote to permit dispensaries this fall.

So when we need to shake off the reports of doom and gloom, The Apothecarium in San Francisco's Castro district is where we head. From the neighborhood to the decor to the flowers, it's among the classiest weed buying experiences on the planet. Plus, they have a new strain named Danny Tanner, from the Nineties sitcom *Full House*. Cut it out!

The Apothecarium sits on Market Street near the center of town. Historic streetcars rumble by. A huge rainbow flag sways in the breeze. Above, the Sutro Tower disappears into the fog. At the club, everything is clean, crisp, and deliberate, starting with the white Victorian-style building it occupies. The faintest whiff of high-grade weed blows in the breeze as the doorman checks IDs and doctors' recommendations.

Sitting down and filling out paperwork, we were impressed by the consistency of the black-and-white-themed decor. The Apothecarium pops with ornate, floral patterned felt wallpaper, black lacquered wood wall paneling, and ebony stained hardwood floors. Abstract topographical art hung for sale. At the sales stations, gray marble countertops sported scales and inspection lamps with magnifiers.

Most clubs throw their latest and greatest up on flatscreen monitors in 63 inch spreadsheets, but The Apothecarium goes all out, printing menus fresh each day and sticking them in restaurant-style menu covers. Patients can peruse them while their information is verified. Everyone waits in chairs until the budtenders call for the next customer. The Apothecarium is not a place for rushing.



Lamb's Bread

After a few minutes, it was our turn and we were feeling like sativas or sativa-dominant hybrids. They tend to have the highest levels of THC, and can elevate mood. So our budtender pulled out a jar of Lamb's Bread filled with electric-green and orange-haired nugs. Jamaican Lamb's Bread was said to be Bob Marley's favorite and this looked like the stuff. Tropical sativas grow long and thin to deal with the heat. The sweet, floral scent of the packed jar made it hard to pass up.

Next up was The Apothecarium's Jack Herer, a Cannabis Cup-winning blockbuster strain. The nose on it was a punch of clear, earthy sweetness. "A very uplifting, positive and creative Sativa," The Apothecarium menu stated. Sold.

We also examined their "Full Sun" Sour Diesel — which is cheap at $35 an eighth. Outdoor pot can look, smell and test as good as any indoor rival, but these outdoor nugs looked a bit weathered, so we moved on.

Now we've known about The Apothecarium since it opened in June, and what really drew us back for a review was the Danny Tanner. This month the club's online menu began including the strain at $51 an eighth. It even replaced the usual flower photo with a press picture of comedian Bob Saget from his *Full House* days — poofy hair, head cocked, a light smile. *Full House* ran for eight years right smack dab in the collective childhood of my generation. We were ready to buy the nostalgia alone.

Saget has no beef with weed, and might be happy to know that the potentially trademark violating variety is of the highest caliber. "a balanced hybrid with a relaxing yet energetic effect," the club states. "Just like Mr. Tanner, this strain can bring down the noise and tension, but keeps up energy to get you going during your household tasks."

It's also looks like big, dark, hairy gorilla balls, Saget might say. Larger and more compact than a sativa, Danny Tanner smelled musky, woody, rich, chocolaty, and nutty — all characteristics of an indica. Its parentage isn't disclosed, but it grinds up peppery and tastes like a Haze meets a Grand Daddy Purple. Some strains smell better, but Tanner is an extremely capable dual middle hybrid, used by those with a broad array of issues like pain, PMS, anxiety and even ADD. Sold.

We didn't even have time to get into The Apothecarium's 22 concentrates and four-dozen or so edibles and tinctures, let alone the Gentlemen's THC Sticks. A world-class shop like this requires repeat visits and a fat bank account. Debit and credit accepted. Federal intimidation, however, is not. ■

David.Downs@gmail.com

This column is culled from our blog of the same name.

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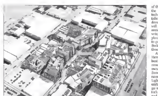

The proposed Peerless Greens site would feature 320 units of housing next to green-tech businesses.

ECO WATCH

THE BATTLE OVER LIVE-WORK COMMUNITIES

Proponents contend that they'll allow green-tech workers to live next to their jobs in West Berkeley, but opponents say they'll create conflicts.

By Robert Gammon

Last year, the Berkeley City Council took a historic step toward attracting green tech to West Berkeley. Despite the protestations of some local residents and businesses, the council opened portions of West Berkeley to companies involved in research and development — a move that recognized that the economy is shifting toward green-collar jobs. Now, the council is weighing a proposal to create live-work communities on two parcels in West Berkeley so that green-tech workers can live right next to their jobs. The plan would also help the city meet the goals of its landmark Climate Change Action Plan, which aims to get commuters out of their cars.

However, the proposal faces an uphill battle. Some of the same groups that opposed green-tech R&D in West Berkeley are now trying to block the construction of dense housing on two large sites in the area. They contend that apartments and condos are not appropriate for West Berkeley's traditional industrial and warehouse district. And they're worried that the proposed developments will drive up property values and rents in the area, and make it more difficult for some business and residents to remain there. They also believe that if the council allows dense housing on the two sites, other developers will want the same for other parts of West Berkeley. "This will spread," warned opponent Rick Auerbach of West Berkeley Artisans & Industrial Companies.

The city council is scheduled to take up the issue on May 1 and then again on May 8, but a decision last month by the Berkeley Planning Commission has made the controversy more complicated. In a vote that angered both sides of the issue, the commission decided to allow the "intermingling" of housing with green tech on the two sites, but then refused to allow taller buildings for housing — a move that developers and some city councilmembers say will stymie the creation of livable, walkable communities. "I was very disappointed by the vote," said Councilwoman Susan Wengraf of the planning commission's decision. "If we're going to provide employment opportunities in West Berkeley, then we have to provide places for those people to live."

At the center of the controversy is Doug Herst, an environmentalist and successful businessman who wants to build a live-work community on a 5.5-acre parcel of land he owns on Fifth Street, between Allston and Bancroft ways. Known as Peerless Greens, named after Herst's former company Peerless Lighting, the community would feature 320 units of workforce housing, including about 50 affordable units for artists, next to green-tech businesses, light industrial companies, and artist studios. The community also would feature artisan shops, an urban garden, vertical gardens, and rooftop solar panels.

Herst and Darrell de Tienne, a San Francisco consultant who is helping develop Peerless Greens, say they need to be able to construct buildings of up to 75 feet in height to accommodate both jobs and the 320 housing units on the site. The planning commission's decision, however, limits housing heights to no more than 35 feet. De Tienne says the height limit will result in the loss of up to 250 housing units, thereby torpedoing their effort to create a true live-work community.

Moreover, without the housing, green tech workers will be forced to live elsewhere and commute to West Berkeley, worsening area traffic and parking problems, and increasing greenhouse-gas emissions — in direct contradiction to Berkeley's Climate Action Plan. The other site in question, the former Fantasy Records building and nearby property close to San Pablo Avenue that is owned by Wareham Development, presents similar issues.

But Auerbach's group not only opposes taller buildings for housing, it also is adamantly against the "intermingling" of housing with green tech and light industrial businesses. Currently, city zoning laws allow Herst to build housing on his site — but only on certain sections of it. Herst says he needs the flexibility to build housing on other portions of his site, too, in order to integrate people's lives with their work. But Auerbach wants to keep the housing restrictions in place, saying that separating housing from businesses leads to fewer conflicts. "We have residents who complain about noise, they complain about smells, they complain about dust," he said.

Councilwoman Linda Maio concurred with that argument and noted that West Berkeley residents have long complained about being next to heavy industry, such as Pacific Steel Casting Company. (It should be noted, however, that neither site in question is proposing the kind of heavy industrial uses like Pacific Steel that have created loud conflicts in West Berkeley over the years.)

Jim Novosel, an architect and planning commission member who spearheaded the height limitations on housing, said he realizes that the planning commission's decision — if upheld by the council — would result in fewer housing units on the two sites. Novosel and Auerbach contend that the housing should be built on San Pablo Avenue, a major transit corridor. Auerbach, Novosel, and Maio also oppose dense housing near Interstate 80 because of air-pollution concerns.

However, the number of available sites for housing on San Pablo appears to be limited. Moreover, current zoning only allows taller buildings right next to the avenue, a rule that further restricts dense housing developments in West Berkeley. "There's only one-half block on each side of San Pablo" zoned for tall buildings, de Tienne said. "You can't throw all the housing the city is going to need onto San Pablo."

At this point, the council appears to be closely divided on the issue of allowing 75-foot tall buildings for housing on the two sites. However, Mayor Tom Bates indicated in an interview that he thinks the council may overturn the planning commission's height limitations, and said that he supports doing so. Bates noted that creating livable, walkable communities has long been a city priority as evidenced by the Climate Action Plan. "If it's done properly," he said, "it means that people can live right there without having to commute."

Auerbach said his group hopes to reach some type of compromise. But if the council allows 75-foot-tall buildings and "intermingling" on the two sites, his group may either take the city to court or attempt to referend the council's decision.

Bates responded that if the council's decision is referended, then he will push to put the issue on the ballot for a citywide vote — much like the council did with the downtown plan. That move ultimately resulted in a downtown plan that calls for dense housing and tall buildings in the city's urban core. ●

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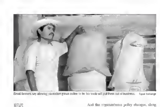

Small farmers say allowing plantation-grown coffee to be fair trade will put them out of business. Equal Exchange

NEWS

WILL YOUR COFFEE STILL BE FAIR TRADE?

Critics say that new policies adopted by Oakland-based Fair Trade USA will undermine the fair-trade industry

By Corey Hill

Fair Trade USA is the largest fair-trade certification agency in the United States. The decisions made at the organization's offices on Broadway in Oakland ripple throughout the national fair trade movement, and beyond to hundreds of thousands of farmers around the world. But since last fall, following Fair Trade USA's announcement of major policy changes, the organization has found itself at the center of a growing and often public debate about the future and shape of the fair-trade movement.

The focus of the controversy is Fair Trade USA's decision to start certifying coffee that is grown on large plantations. The organization says it hopes to expand fair trade practices beyond the small farms and cooperatives that traditionally have won fair-trade certification. But the move has sparked a strong backlash in the fair-trade community, particularly among small farmers and co-ops who contend that larger plantations will eventually put them out of business.

"The decision of Fair Trade USA to include plantations in the system is a serious threat to the organizations," said Santiago Paz Lopez, co-manager of CEPICAFE, an association representing small coffee, cacao, sugarcane, and tropical fruit producers in Northern Peru. "The small producers cannot compete with the plantations and large companies that have taken control of the market and of the decisions being made by Fair Trade USA. Fair trade, in Fair Trade USA's [new] scheme, doesn't mean anything."

Fair Trade USA's new standards for mixed-ingredient products have also come under fire. And the organization's policy changes, along with its decision to split off from the international group that establishes worldwide standards for fair trade, could result in the Oakland organization losing its dominant position in the US fair-trade movement. In fact, last month the group Fairtrade Labelling Organizations International (FLO), which is headquartered in Bonn, Germany, announced that it was going to establish a fair-trade program in the United States. That announcement also promises to be a hot topic of discussion this week at a major conference, the Fair Trade Stakeholder Council Summit, which is to be held in Minneapolis from April 30 to May 2.

Fair Trade USA began operations in Oakland in 1998 — one year after the founding of Fairtrade Labelling Organizations International. The basic premise of fair trade has remained unchanged since its earliest days. Farmworkers receive a "fair-trade premium" for their product, and they invest this additional income in community development. Certifying organizations inspect farms to ensure that labor and environmental standards are met. Consumers have only to look for a "Fair Trade" label to know that they are purchasing a product made without exploitation.

The model has proven successful. For example, it has fueled a steady expansion in volume for coffee certification at an annual growth rate of almost 55 percent between 1999 and 2007. Through aggressive marketing and business development, Fair Trade USA also has helped grow consumer recognition while opening the marketplace to new fair-trade products, boasting a current product range of more than 10,000 items. "This is our approach — try and figure out the policy that will provide the most impact to the most farmers while maintaining rigor," said Fair Trade USA's Chief Impact Officer Mary Jo Cook.

And according to the organization's figures, last year was a blockbuster for fair trade. Total fair-trade coffee imports in 2011 grew 32 percent (an increase of 33 million pounds) over the previous year, and totaled 138 million pounds. Fair-trade tea imports increased 22 percent, and produce imports jumped 40 percent. And most strikingly, overall sales of fair-trade certified products grew 75 percent last year.

In addition, Fair Trade USA has helped farmers in seventy countries around the world earn more than $220 million in additional income in the last thirteen years. For farmers, this money means new wells, health clinics, and leadership training. Indeed, no one denies that Fair Trade USA has been successful in growing the popularity of fair-trade products. But critics contend that the new policy changes will imperil the small growers and cooperatives around the world that helped launch the fair-trade movement.

According to Santiago, the co-manager of CEPICAFE, which now represents more than 6,500 coffee producers, the economic benefits of fair trade on small growers cannot be overstated. A 50-kilogram sack of organic raw sugar that once sold for $3 now sells for $41. Fair-trade cacao sells at almost two times the market price of non-fair trade. Small farmers also have diversified their incomes, driving the production of value-added products, such as turning fruit into marmalade.

In addition, leadership schools promote leadership and women's empowerment, with farmers taking the skills they learn to run for local office. The cooperatives promote unity and solidarity — CEPICAFE has been able to unify the mountain producers with those from the coast and the jungle. But now, Santiago says, the system that produced these results is at risk.

Fair Trade USA, however, contends that its policy changes, which it calls Fair Trade for All, are necessary to widen the impact of fair trade. Including plantation coffee will expand the market for all fair-trade farmers, the group says. Because the farmworkers on these large farms have traditionally been excluded from fair trade, customers wishing to make blends of coffee from both cooperative and non-cooperative farms cannot label their blends "Fair Trade Certified." In those situations, including farmworkers would also benefit cooperatives, as more coffee gets sold on fair-trade terms, Fair Trade USA says.

"In coffee, fair-trade certification [was] available only to cooperative organizations, which represent about 8 percent of the world's coffee-growing community," said Fair Trade USA's Chief Impact Officer Cook. "By excluding millions of unorganized coffee farmers and farmworkers, our [old] model also [limited] impact opportunities for producers, businesses and consumers."

Fair Trade USA says the coexistence of plantations and cooperatives in the banana market is a prime example of success. Since 2004, farmworkers on banana farms have earned more than $2.8 million in community development premiums (this figure includes both workers on cooperatives and plantations). "During this same period, sales of bananas on cooperatives increased, suggesting that small farms and large farms can successfully coexist within fair trade," Cook noted.

But small growers and cooperative organizations, including the Fair World Project, United Students for Fair Trade, and dozens of other fair-trade organizations, have voiced concerns about the inclusion of coffee plantations into the fair-trade certification process. CAN, the Alliance of Fair Trade Producer Networks, representing more than one million fair-trade farmers, expressed disappointment at Fair Trade USA's inclusion of plantations in an extended criticism made public last year. Also, the Latin American and Caribbean Network of Small Fair Trade Producers (CLAC), a founding member and co-owner of Fairtrade International, said in a statement last September that it "cannot share [Fair Trade USA's] new vision of expansion since it threatens the empowerment, development and self-management of small organized producers."

Critics of Fair Trade USA's new policies say that coffee plantations will not only crowd out the small farmers of the cooperative system but consumers who have come to associate fair trade with the cooperative system will assume that they are supporting cooperatives when they're not. The new system also represents a "soft option" for plantation managers, blunting calls for more significant labor reform.

The core issue, critics say, is the relationship between the farmer, the land, and the product. In a cooperative, the workers own and control the means of production, controlling key decision making and electing officials from within their ranks to run day-to-day operations.

In contrast, many plantations employ seasonal workers, who rotate between plantations throughout the year and don't return to the same plantation as the previous season. Guaranteeing a democratic workplace is difficult in this environment.

When the fair-trade system was first built, the financial premiums were envisioned as only components of a larger whole. It was a transformative approach in which fair trade would change the power dynamic within an economic system. "Plantations don't belong in the fair-trade system," said Rodney North of Equal Exchange. "Small farmer cooperatives were the co-creators of fair trade; to now take it and change it in a way that threatens their viability is unacceptable."

Fair Trade USA also announced two new certification labels in January — one for products containing 100-percent fair-trade ingredients, and another for products comprised partially of fair-trade ingredients. This move was aimed at clarifying the fair-trade labeling process for consumers and encouraging more businesses to include fair trade ingredients in their products. For any product making use of the "Fair Trade Ingredients" label, the primary ingredient associated with the product has to be 100-percent fair trade (cocoa in a chocolate bar for example). In addition, any ingredient that can be fair trade has to be. And fair-trade ingredients must compose at least 20 percent of the finished product by dry weight. "When it came to ingredient labeling, we wanted a policy that encourages more companies to use more fair-trade products, but with enough transparency to be clear to consumers," said Cook of Fair Trade USA.

Revision of the ingredient labeling policy came in response to criticism. In a public statement issued in 2011, the Organic Consumers Association provided the following comment on Fair Trade USA's labeling standard: "What if the certified organic USDA logo that appears on products with 95%+ content of certified organic ingredients was used in identical fashion on products that are only 20%, or even 2% organic, the only difference being a barely readable small ingredient descriptor below the organic logo?"

And while the new standard is stricter than before, critics say it only represents a return to a status quo that was already compromised. The 20 percent requirement for partial fair-trade ingredients, for example, is the same one used by FLO. In short, it's not really an improvement; it's a correction.

FLO, meanwhile, is currently seeking input to determine the structure and organization of its new labeling certification program in the United States, which is due to begin in 2013. ●

The author is a former Fair Trade USA volunteer.

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NEWS

RECOVERY IS FOREVER

Rehab doesn't cure addicts nor does it immediately make their lives better as we're learning from Alameda County Supervisor Nadia Lockyer

By Martha Ross

On March 20, embattled Alameda County Supervisor Nadia Lockyer tried to act like bad rumbles were behind her. Fresh out of rehab reportedly for a substance-abuse problem, she was all business when she showed up unexpectedly for a board of supervisors retreat. It was her first public appearance since news broke in early February that she was seeking treatment for her addiction, along with injuries that she says were inflicted by an ex-lover.

Dressed in a plain but sedate black suit and pearls, the forty-year-old wife of state Treasurer Bill Lockyer wouldn't talk to reporters except to say, "I just want to get work done." She left an aide to release a four-paragraph statement that emphasized her health and readiness to get back into the swing of life and work. "I'm happy to be back on my feet," she stated.

But her troubles were far from over. In the following weeks, more sensational revelations emerged, capped with Lockyer telling a reporter a desperate story about how her ex-lover was allegedly stalking her and had hacked into her email so he could accuse her seventy-year-old husband, the state's former attorney general, of getting her involved in drugs.

Calls for Lockyer to resign escalated, with editorial page writers saying her "serial lying" and erratic behavior were typical of an addict — and not proper for an elected public official with power over hundreds of thousands of people.

Eventually the pressure became too intense for Lockyer. Last Friday, she resigned from office, saying she needed to concentrate on her recovery and work on being a better mother to her son. "Reality is, I set my personal goals in recovery too high, and too quickly," she said in a statement. "I got myself in a place called addiction all by myself."

Lockyer also admitted to a *San Jose Mercury News* reporter that she had lied when she said her ex-boyfriend must have hacked into her email account, and said she had sent the email. Lockyer also said that she has 77 days of sobriety, but she likely remains emotionally and physically fragile. She also has a high chance of relapse. That's the picture painted by statistics, drug treatment professionals, and addicts themselves.

Rehab definitely, in short, is not a cure, and that's true even for the person fervently committed to staying clean. Rehab is just the beginning of a life-changing, one-day-at-a-time program of vigilance.

"I was like many people who enter treatment. I thought I would do my 28 days in rehab and I hoped they would hit me with a magic wand and I would be done," said Odell, 54, who went through detox and a 28-day residential program at Alta Bates Summit Medical Center's MPI Treatment Services in Oakland for alcohol and cocaine addiction. At the end of those 28 days, he opted to continue with MPI's yearlong outpatient "after-care" program. He also got involved in Alcoholics and Narcotics Anonymous. That was in 1995. Nearly 17 years into his recovery, he said, "I'm still a meeting-a-day kind of guy."

As many as 15 percent of Americans have a problem with alcohol, painkillers, or other drugs. In recovery circles, it's estimated that only about 15 percent of those people seek help and only 15 percent of those people stay sober over the long term, said Nina Ferraris, program director at John Muir Behavioral Health's Center for Recovery in Contra Costa County. In addition, dropout rates for patients in the first 28 days of treatment are as high as 50 percent, according to one study. Relapse happens to people who have been sober two, ten, or twenty years.

We read about celebrities like Whitney Houston drowning in a hotel bathtub with cocaine in her system after vowing to seek treatment. Alcoholics Amy Winehouse and artist Thomas Kinkade both died after they started drinking again. Lockyer's recent stint in rehab is her second time in treatment. She sought treatment after she was elected supervisor in 2010; she met her ex-boyfriend in the program.

The "disease" theory of addiction offers a powerful explanation for why addiction is relentless. Two decades of research led the American Society of Addiction Medicine last summer to officially define addiction as a chronic brain disorder — not a moral or social weakness. Addiction affects the parts of the brain involved in reward circuitry, memory, impulse control, and judgment. It creates cravings that override reason and pushes addicts to risk relationships, jobs, reputation, health, and personal safety to feed their habits.

"I still have cravings all the time," said Chris, 26, who got sober just over a year ago in John Muir's program in Concord. Before that, he was putting away close to a "handle" — almost a half-gallon — of vodka a day. Chris' drinking, which started at age eighteen, cost him his college scholarship.

Besides cravings, other physical and psychological problems plague addicts in the first years of recovery. Withdrawal continues in the form of "post-acute withdrawal" symptoms, which include anxiety, depression, sleep problems, and impaired concentration. And addicts must return to real life after what feels to many like rehab's nurturing cocoon. Before seeking treatment, many have wrecked marriages, lost custody of their kids, jeopardized jobs, or been arrested.

Residential or outpatient rehab inculcates patients with information about addiction and introduces strategies to help them cope with cravings and begin chipping away at personal problems. But rehab won't keep you sober. That's what a John Muir counselor told D.G., a 55-year-old Concord woman who went into rehab last spring for alcoholism. "We're going to give you the tool box to stay sober, but it's going to be AA or LifeRing over the long term that keeps you sober," the counselor said.

D.G. committed to going to at least three AA meetings a week. That's a requirement for her to stay in John Muir's after-care program, where in a weekly process group, she can get feedback on managing situations that could trigger relapse. While research shows addicts should stay in treatment for at least three months, counselors at John Muir and MPI say patients do better when they stay in treatment for a year. An after-care program provides structure and accountability. "We tell patients you're not in treatment for 28 days, it's a 13-month program," said Terry Arnold, manager at MPI Assessment and Clinical Services.

Nadia Lockyer

Although relapse is common, Arnold and other treatment specialists believe people can still achieve long-term sobriety after multiple setbacks. As with other chronic illnesses — diabetes, asthma, heart disease — relapse signals a need for addicts to reassess their programs and make adjustments. As drug treatment experts say, addicts can't choose whether to be addicts, but they can choose to get help.

Twelve-step literature talks about "surrender" and "willingness." Addicts must surrender to the fact they have a disease and be willing to commit the time and focus to staying clean. "They have to make recovery their priority," Ferraris said.

Putting recovery first means making all sorts of small and big lifestyle changes, taking time off from a stressful job, abandoning toxic friendships, moving out of a house or neighborhood where family and friends are still drinking or using.

D.G. skipped a recent work party where she would been feted for 35 years of service at her job. "There would have been alcohol," she said. "I didn't need to be there." Odell has rebuilt his social life around friends he has met in AA and NA or through MPI's alumni program. Chris moved out of his parents' house because they still drink and into a "sober-living" house. He relies on the support of his recovery friends to stay sober and take steps to find work and go back to school. He accepts he will have to be on his guard the rest of his life, paying close attention to situations — passing the liquor aisle at the grocery store — that trigger cravings. Just taking one sip could plunge him back into a habit that could disable or kill him. "To put it bluntly, you can't get much deeper into the disease than I was. I don't have another relapse in me." ●

Editor@EastBayExpress.com

Recycling workers would have to start separating food waste from garbage under a plan by the City of Oakland.

Stephen Loewinsohn

Recycling's Dirty Little Secret

The people who sort our recyclables have dangerous — and sometimes disgusting — jobs that are about to get worse.

By Jean Tepperman

Victoria Leon and Sergio Gonzalez have seen some nasty things at their work. The married couple from Oakland has been employed for the past five years at Waste Management's Davis Street Transfer Station in San Leandro, where they sift through the stuff that East Bay residents put in their recycling bins. Unfortunately, it's not all cans, bottles, and cardboard. Leon and Gonzalez have seen numerous dead animals roll by on the conveyor belt that passes their sorting stations, including a lot of cats and rats, and once two pit bulls. They also have seen medical waste, human feces, needles, batteries, and a variety of mysterious, foul-smelling substances.

"If people just put recycling in the recycling," Leon said in a recent interview, "that would solve many of the problems."

But many residents don't realize the ramifications of putting garbage and other waste in recycling bins. "A lot of us don't know or don't think about the fact that human beings sort through" the recycling at transfer stations such as the one in San Leandro, noted Agustin Ramirez, Northern California organizer for the International Longshore Workers Union (ILWU), which represents about two hundred of the workers at Davis Street.

In one of the buildings at Davis Street, a huge open shed, stuff from the recycling bins moves along a two-story maze of shrieking conveyor belts. Workers sort the recyclables with the help of machines fitted with screens, filters, and optical scanners. But first, some of the workers pick out the non-recyclable trash by hand. "The job we do is dangerous," Leon said.

Although Waste Management spokesman David Tucker said employees get OSHA-approved protective gear and have not had an accident in more than a year, workers say that sorting through trash exposes them to real hazards. Gonzalez said he was cut one time by a contaminated piece of broken glass. Doctors ended up removing a four-square-inch area of his infected skin.

Needles can jab through the cloth gloves, too, Leon added. And there's "the dust flying around us," said Gonzalez. "They give us masks but those don't filter out fumes from chemicals," said Martin Reyes, who sorts the material that people bring to Davis Street themselves. "And the dust gets on my clothes, so I take that home — what's in that dust?" One thing that's definitely in the dust, Gonzalez said, is particles of glass. "There's a machine that crunches the glass. They give us special glasses but the glass particles can get past them" and cut workers' eyes.

In short, workers like Leon, Gonzalez, and Reyes have difficult jobs that pay relatively poorly. And their work could get even more disgusting because of a decision earlier this year by the Oakland City Council. The council approved a controversial plan that would force workers to sift through a large chunk of the city's garbage — not just the stuff that ends up in recycling bins — in order to dig out food waste to be composted.

Oakland officials say they're trying to keep as much compostable material out of landfills as possible in order to help fight climate change, but some environmental groups and labor unions say the city's plan may actually make things worse — not only for low-paid workers who will have to sift through the nasty mess of garbage and food waste, but also for the planet. The city's plan, critics say, undermines efforts to educate consumers about the importance of composting.

At the same time, Oakland's plan also serves as an example of a growing issue within the green economy: how to recycle and compost as much waste as possible without harming either the safety or the livelihoods of the frontline workers.

Recycling has come a long way in a relatively short time. A few decades ago, "a precious few in Berkeley and Marin were recycling our wine bottles," noted Ruth Abbe, a member of the Sierra Club's Zero Waste Committee. "Now everyone gets a 64-gallon can. It's great. It's the democratization of recycling. On the other hand, it's a challenge getting the word out, educating people to know what's recyclable and what's not — winning hearts and minds."

Over the years, people have gotten pretty good at recycling cans and bottles, although "we still need to do better with paper," said Oakland's recycling specialist Peter Slote. But for many people, the idea of composting — putting food scraps in a separate green bin and processing them to produce fertile soil for growing more food — remains unfamiliar. "We're still at the beginning stages" of educating the public about composting, said Abbe. "We're still overcoming the ick factor."

Single-family homes in Oakland, Berkeley, Alameda, and other East Bay cities now get three bins — for recycling, compost, and trash. But in many businesses and apartment buildings, everything has just been going into the trash. Starting July 1, however, a new Alameda County mandatory recycling ordinance will require most commercial properties and multifamily residences to provide enough recycling bins to accommodate all the recyclables they generate. In two years, by July 1, 2014, all businesses will be included. And they will all have to separate compostables (food scraps and yard waste).

According to the county's StopWaste agency, about 60 percent of the stuff that now goes into the landfill — valued at $100 million a year — could be recycled or composted. The county's goal is to get that down to 10 percent by 2020. That's going to mean a lot more recyclables going through the sorting process at Davis Street, according to Waste Management spokeswoman Karen Stern.

But Oakland is taking a different path than the county, and it's generating a backlash

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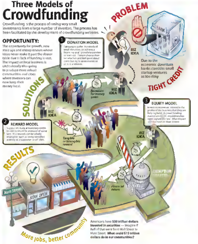
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The Oakland City Council approved a draft Zero Waste plan that calls for workers to sort through not just the trash that finds its way into recycling bins but also all garbage from Oakland's multifamily residences. The draft plan, scheduled to take effect in 2015, would continue the city's practice of providing single-family homes three separate bins for trash, recyclables, and compost (food scraps and yard waste), and would extend that program to commercial properties. But apartment buildings would get only two bins: one for recyclables, and the other for trash and food scraps, which would be separated later in a "materials recovery facility" (MRF). That's the part that the Sierra Club, the ILWU and other community groups object to — they want apartment buildings to get green compost bins, too.

But the Oakland City Council approved the two-bin plan for multifamily buildings in January on the recommendation of Public Works Agency staff. That plan is based on "a climate-change and environmental imperative to get [compostables] out of the landfill," explained recycling specialist Slote. Rotting food generates methane, a potent greenhouse gas. Landfill technology captures some of the methane, but some escapes into the atmosphere. Even with a green bin available, residents often put compostable material into the trash, which ends up in the landfill. By allowing apartment-dwellers to combine the materials in their homes and then have workers sort them in a MRF, the city will be able to divert most, if not all, compostable material away from the landfill, Slote said.

Councilwoman Libby Schaaf, who sits on the Public Works Committee, said councilmembers were impressed by the recycling program in San Jose, where food scraps all go into the trash bins and are sorted out later. "Our understanding is they're getting a much higher recovery rate of organics," Schaaf said, referring to compostable material. By contrast, said Slote, San Francisco puts green bins in apartment buildings, but "we're confident they're recovering less than 50 percent" of the food scraps.

It's "an environmentalist utopian point of view," he argued, to think that a three-bin system in apartment buildings will capture all the organic material. And more recovery of compostables, said Schaaf, means "doing a better job of meeting our zero-waste goal."

Slote also argues that separating compost won't work very well for apartment-dwellers because multifamily buildings are different from single-family houses. Single-family homes have "yard trimmings that dilute the food scraps and reduce the 'volatility' [translation: smell], as opposed to a plop of wet food scraps rotting," he said.

A Public Works Agency report cited additional problems in apartment buildings: tenant turnover, "space constraints," and "wide variations in tenant participation in source-separation." After discussions with the Sierra Club and others, however, the city did amend the plan to allow a three-bin system in an apartment building if the owner requests it. The city's plan has the support of the East Bay Rental Housing Association, which represents apartment building owners.

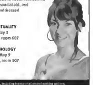
Once the trash-plus-food-scraps material is collected, Slote said, "processing technology is available today or will be in five to ten years that will capture organics [food scraps and yard waste]. I believe we're in a brave new world of organic material management."

Oakland's plan, for example, envisions sending trash through an enclosed container in which anaerobic bacteria would eat up some of the food scraps, generating methane in a controlled space so it can be captured for fuel. Screens and filters will separate some of the rest, so the process will be "very hands-off," Slote contended, although he added that there's "always a little hand processing."

And once the organic material is separated from the trash, Slote concluded, "we'll have access to all that material, not just get it out of the landfill but capture it in value-added products, in compost," which would be sold for uses like landscaping. And this work could be done locally, Slote said, rather than burning fuel to ship compostable material to the Central Valley. Compost that's been contaminated with trash, however, cannot be used for food production.

In general, the Sierra Club likes Oakland's plan, especially the emphasis on "source separation," asking both homeowners and businesses to put recyclables, compostables, and trash into three separate bins, said zero waste advocate Abbe. "We are 100-percent enthusiastic about that," she said. "Jumping up

Victoria Lara and Sergio Gonzalez have seen some scary things at their work. Stephen Loewinsohn



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and down!" But the Sierra Club is distressed at the "disconnect" for apartment dwellers, she added. "We're very concerned about writing off a whole sector of the population." It's as if city officials "don't trust them, don't think they can educate them, don't think the zero-waste vision can be shared by everybody."

At an Oakland City Council meeting, Abbe argued against the creation of a MRF to separate compost and garbage that comes from multifamily buildings. "We want to focus first on education and outreach, going door-to-door," she said in an interview. "We need to invest in social marketing, education to change the culture."

"We're at the tipping point," she added, referring to compost education. "Only this year we've gone up to forty schools in Oakland with composting programs. But many of these kids live in multifamily buildings so they aren't able to recycle and compost at home. That's inequity."

This is the heart of the Sierra Club's opposition to Oakland's plan. "By giving up on multifamily buildings, you make the education job harder," Abbe said. "We need the same system everywhere. You do the same thing, composting and recycling, at home, at school, at work. We want people to understand — it's not just trash, it's very impactful. We all have a personal responsibility and can take action."

Abbe also is not convinced by the high recovery rate of organic material at San Jose's MRF. First, she said, that facility is not comparable to the one Oakland would create because it processes material that includes a lot of yard trimmings from San Jose suburbs. Anyway, she said, "a high rate of diversion is not my goal. My goal is sustainability. It's not sustainable for folks not to learn."

A technological solution like San Jose's, she continued, tells people, "don't worry about trash, someone else will take care of it." But if people don't understand what happens to the waste, "how can they make appropriate buying decisions about products and packaging? Why should they minimize trash?"

"Oakland is taking the source-separation ethic very seriously on the single-family and commercial side," she said, leading to the "highest and best use" of waste materials. For example, food scraps that have not been contaminated with trash can be turned into compost for food production. "And in the long run," she said, "it's cheaper."

At Davis Street, recycling workers already have difficult jobs

Stephen Loewinsohn / file photo

Members of ILWU Local 6 share Abbe's conviction that more education is the key to improving the process. They also oppose Oakland's plan for a more immediate reason: Separating trash from compost would be "hazardous for our folks," said ILWU organizer Ramirez. If compost goes into the trash bins and is separated later, that means "people will have to sort through it — now trash goes straight to the landfill." Even with all the technology the city's plan envisions, it would require some workers to get up close and personal with whatever people threw in the garbage.

Safety, moreover, is always an issue at waste-disposal facilities. Earlier this month, for example, all the workers in the section of the Davis Street facility where recycled materials are stored signed a petition asking management to deal with the growing rat population there. They provided graphic descriptions of cleaning enclosed areas filled with rat droppings and pointed out that they had not seen an exterminator for more than a year. In response, Waste Management launched a major rat-poison offensive.

And working with compost can involve other hazards. Last month, the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health issued sixteen citations against the state's largest compost processing facility, Community Recycling and Resource Recovery in Bakersfield, in connection with the deaths of two brothers, Armando and Heladio Ramirez. Armando was poisoned by hydrogen sulfide as he was cleaning a stormwater drain at the composting facility, and Heladio was overcome by the fumes when he tried to rescue his brother.

Global warming, though, endangers all of us, and that's the main argument for the current Oakland plan. By allowing people to combine food scraps with trash, then separating them in an efficient MRF, Oakland would be reducing the amount of rotting material in the landfill, as less methane would be released.

However, even that assumption is being challenged. Waste Management spokeswoman Stern said the company currently captures more than 90 percent of the gasses from its Altamont landfill with state-of-the-art technology and a powerful motive: Landfill gas is worth money. Some of the gas captured at Altamont is burned to generate electricity that Waste Management sells to the grid — enough to power 35,000 homes, the company estimates — and some produces liquid natural gas, which fuels Waste Management trucks.

Waste Management spokesman Tucker also countered another Oakland Public Works staff argument: that building a MRF in Alameda County would make it possible to process compost locally instead of shipping it to the Central Valley. Tucker said that most of Alameda County's compost is already processed locally — at the Davis Street facility and at landfills in Altamont and Novato, although some is still shipped to the Central Valley.

At the Redwood landfill in Novato, Tucker said, "material from your table scraps and yard clippings" is turned into Waste Management's high-grade Earthcare compost, sold locally to vineyards, community gardens, and homeowners. "It's a closed loop," Tucker said. That's the zero-waste ideal. Stern added that the company is now applying for a permit to build a similar facility in Alameda County. "We've invested significant resources to clean the compost," Tucker added. "That allows us to get the best rating from the US Composting Council, certified for use in organic agriculture."

Oakland's next contract for waste disposal will address not just the handling of compost, recyclables, and trash, but also the treatment of workers. A city staff report includes "social equity" as a goal for the system, along with economic and environmental improvement. But members of ILWU Local 6 who work at Davis Street have been meeting with Public Works Agency staff, the council Public Works Committee, and individual councilmembers, pushing them to also include a list of nine "social equity" provisions in the city's request for proposals.

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East Bay recycling workers also want better pay

Stephen Loewinsohn/file photo

High on the union's priority list is raising the pay. The average wage for people who sort recycling at Davis Street is $12.65 an hour, said Local 6 staffer Fred Pecker. "When you have a family, it's really hard to support your kids on that," said recycling worker Leon. She and her co-worker husband Gonzalez have three children, ages eleven, eight, and four.

According to the Insight Center for Community Economic Development, which calculates a "self-sufficiency wage" for workers in California by county and family type, an Alameda County family of five like Leon's and Gonzalez's needs each parent to earn $21.06 an hour.

Ironically, lower pay for waste-disposal workers has been an unintended consequence of our success in recycling, said the ILWU's Ramirez. Recycling workers are typically lower-paid than those who collect trash and work at landfills because landfill jobs were created at a time when all the trash went into the landfill, and the men who collected and processed it "could make a good living providing a good public service," Pecker said. "Recycling came in little by little, under the radar, with scavenging — metal, paper — not paid fairly as a public service."

So as waste has shifted from landfill to recycling, there are fewer well-paying jobs and more low-wage workers. The new mandatory recycling ordinances threaten to increase that trend.

Ramirez argues that "cities have to take responsibility for what they do with the money from their citizens." In other words, better waste-disposal policies don't have to mean worse lives for the people who do the work. So the union wants Oakland's RFP to require the next contractor to pay all workers a "family wage" equal to earnings in comparable nearby cities — San Francisco waste-disposal workers make $18 to $20 an hour, said Ramirez, and San Jose is not far behind. In addition, they want the RFP to require that if some jobs are eliminated, the workers get to move to new jobs with no loss of pay.

The union's social equity goals include two other job-security provisions: a requirement that current workers can keep their jobs no matter who gets the new contract, and a ban on exporting jobs outside the county. Also on the list is a "ban the box" provision, which would prevent the contractor from asking job applicants to check a box on the application if they've been convicted of a felony.

The social equity provisions also include a three-bin system in multifamily buildings, a minimum number of bulky waste pickup days for all residential areas, and the right of individuals or the city to take legal action if any of the terms of the contract are violated.

Teamsters Union Local 70, which represents workers who drive the collection trucks and others who work at Davis Street and the Altamont landfill, wants the city to include in its RFP a commitment to pay the "prevailing wage," which for Teamsters union members is already substantially higher than the pay of people who process recycling. The Teamsters also is asking for a commitment to retain the current workforce if a new contractor is selected. In return, the union is ready to promise "labor peace" — no garbage strikes.

Because the Oakland City Council has already approved the draft plan, the current strategy of some environmental groups and unions is to persuade the council to amend it. Included in the social equity request is a requirement that contractors provide an additional bid on an alternative plan that would provide for three bins — for trash, recycling, and composting — for all properties. The final RFP is to be released by the city on May 23.

Abbe of the Sierra Club emphasized the importance of Oakland's final decision on this issue. The next waste-disposal contract will run for ten years, with the possibility of two five-year renewals, so the policies set this year could continue until 2032. And with the countywide composting mandate to take effect in two years, Abbe said her fear is that if Oakland takes the easy way out with multifamily, the other cities will also say, "We'll give up and technology will solve it."

"It's a basic strategic choice," she said. "We could tell people not to worry about their trash and try to fix it with technology — and the labor of low-paid workers, most of whom are immigrants. Or we could focus on education, culture change, "winning hearts and minds," and bring our production, packaging, and personal actions into line with "the zero waste vision," she said.

And commit to making sure that the new green economy provides safe and sustainable jobs for the people who do the work. ●

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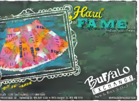

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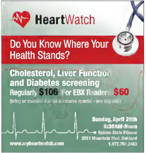

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Some people will tell you that the world looks a lot more magical when rendered through the aperture of a pinhole camera — the lensless, primitive photographic device that many an elementary-school student has constructed from a cylindrical oatmeal box. Ask an enthusiast to explain this fandom and she'll likely describe for you the soft, dreamlike quality that the camera's long exposure time leaves on its photographs, the straightforward picture-taking process of the simple contraption, and given the lack of a lens, the mystery that comes with not knowing precisely what image has been captured until it's developed.

A pinhole camera photo by Jen Waciukauski

Though people have been projecting images via pinhole for centuries, history has it that the first to apply the principle to photography was a Scottish scientist named Sir David Brewster back in the 1850s. Since then, the cameras — which involve little more than a lightproof container lined with film or photographic paper on one end and a small hole pierced on the other — have been fashioned from items as ordinary as tea tins and wooden boxes and as unconventional as coconuts and at least one three-story aircraft hangar. Despite today's preponderance of point-and-shoot digital cameras, amateur and professional proponents of the pinhole method still practice it throughout the world.

In Wisconsin you'll find Nick Dvoracek. Now an IT administrator, he once hosted pinhole photography seminars at a small liberal arts college in Illinois and says he's still fascinated by how the rudimentary science of the cameras reduces photography to its "absolute simplest nature." Closer to home, there's Looking Glass Photo (2848 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley) proprietor Jen Waciukauski. She built her first pinhole camera as a child, and later used the devices for most of her college photography assignments. "With a pinhole camera you don't know exactly what you're getting," Waciukauski explained. "All of the images are different, but there's a softness that usually happens. When you see the image, there's a little vignette to it that transports you to another place."

Both photographers have a hand in Worldwide Pinhole Photography Day. Held each year on the last Sunday in April (and this year on Sunday, April 29), the event celebrates the art form through the orchestration of pinhole photography workshops across the world. Enthusiasts can locate local events at PinholeDay.org, and after participating in a workshop can upload a single image of their choosing to the website's online gallery. Last year, 3,386 people contributed images from 67 countries. "A lot of these people weren't even aware that the pinhole process was possible," Dvoracek said. "It expands their vision."

While Dvoracek is one of a host of volunteers helping to organize the event on a broad scale, Waciukauski hosts a Pinhole Day workshop at Looking Glass Photo from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., when people can drop in for direction in camera construction, photo shooting, and darkroom development. Bring a light-safe container like a cookie tin — or a digital SLR camera, which can accommodate a pinhole attachment (also available for sale). $10, ages 12 and under $5. RSVP encouraged. 510-548-6888 or LookingGlassPhoto.com

— Cassie Harwood

ATTRACTIONS

[illegible] Heart of [illegible] Tour With tours of five renovated Oakland and Piedmont homes. [illegible] Apr. 27-28, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. $45-$85. [illegible]

[illegible] Rainwater Catchment Earthworks Tour [illegible] Sun., Apr. 29, [illegible] EcoHouse, 1305 Hopkins St., Berkeley. [illegible]

USS Potomac Opening Day [illegible] [illegible] Sun., Apr. 29, [illegible] $85. USS Potomac, 540 Water St., Oakland. [illegible] USSPotomac.org.

FAIRS, FESTIVALS & FIESTAS

[illegible] [illegible] Fri., Apr. 27, [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] Sat., Apr. 28, [illegible] Oakland.

International Family Fair and Raffle With vegetarian food, activities for children, a raffle, and live entertainment [illegible] Sat., Apr. 28, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. New School of Berkeley, [illegible] Berkeley. [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] Sat., Apr. 28, 1-5 p.m., free. [illegible] Rhythmix Cultural Works, 2513 Blanding Ave., Alameda. [illegible]

[illegible] Earth Day Celebration and Plant Sale [illegible] Sun., Apr. 29, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. [illegible]

[illegible] Sunday [illegible] Sun., Apr. 29, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] Sat., Apr. 28, 1-5 p.m., free. [illegible] Laney College, 900 Fallon St., Oakland. [illegible]

HEALTH & WELLNESS

[illegible] Hosted by the City of Berkeley's [illegible] Sat., Apr. 28, [illegible] Berkeley. [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] Sat., Apr. 28, [illegible] Emeryville. [illegible]

[illegible] Alameda County [illegible]

PICKS

April Follies Same-Sex Dance Championship

Ladies, gentlemen, [illegible], grab your dollies. The tenth-annual April Follies Same-Sex Dance Championship gives same-sex, queer, and transgender couples a chance to hit the dance floor for a day of competitive dancing. Movers and shakers of all capabilities can cut a rug in genres ranging from salsa and Argentine tango to West Coast swing and lindy hop, with an open dance session following the final competition. Straight couples are welcome to dance in separately judged competitions — as long as the female leads at least 75 percent of the performance. At the Just Dance Ballroom (2500 Embarcadero, Oakland) on Saturday, Apr. 28, 10 a.m.-[illegible] [illegible] or AprilFollies.com — *Cassie Harwood*

Same-Sex Dance Championship

Healthy Kids Day and Youth Triathlon

Whether your child is an Olympian in the making or slowly going the way of the couch potato, the YMCA's Healthy Kids Day initiative on Saturday, Apr. 28, promises to get him or her up and going with a series of free physical and otherwise healthy activities held at 1,600 locations across the country. In addition to a family resource fair, physical education classes, raffles, and health-food handouts, the Downtown Oakland YMCA (2350 Broadway, Oakland) hosts a youth triathlon and a parent-and-child triathlon. See website for other East Bay locations. 9 a.m.-noon. 510-451-9622 or OaklandYMCA.org — *C.H.*

[illegible] Sat., Apr. 28, [illegible] Oakland. [illegible]

KIDS

DIY Jewelry Crafts for Children and Teens [illegible] Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak St., Oakland. [illegible]

Healthy Kids Day [illegible] Sat., Apr. 28, [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] Apr. 28, [illegible] 3277 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. [illegible]

More Listings Online

Find hundreds of up-to-date Arts listings at EastBayExpress.com or m.EastBayExpress.com

LGBT

[illegible] [illegible] Fri., Apr. 27, [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] Sun., Apr. 29, [illegible] Alameda. [illegible]

[illegible] Support Group [illegible] Berkeley. [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] Fri., Apr. 26, [illegible] Berkeley. [illegible]

RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY

[illegible] [illegible] Berkeley. [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] Berkeley. [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] Berkeley. [illegible]

SALES, PROMOTIONS, & FUNDRAISERS

Bay Area Hunger Walk [illegible] Sun., Apr. 29, [illegible] Oakland.

[illegible] [illegible] Sun., Apr. 29, [illegible] Oakland.

An Evening in Paris [illegible] [illegible] Sat., Apr. 28, [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] Sat., Apr. 28, [illegible] Berkeley. [illegible]

May Day Party and Fundraiser [illegible] Berkeley. [illegible]

SOCIAL EVENTS

Community Sing Along [illegible] Sat., Apr. 28, [illegible] Alameda. [illegible]

SPORTS & OUTDOORS-PARTICIPATORY

Bike Maintenance [illegible] **[illegible]** [illegible] Thu., Apr. 26, [illegible] Berkeley. [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] Sat., Apr. 28, [illegible] Alameda. [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] Sun., Apr. 29, [illegible] Berkeley. [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] Sat., Apr. 28, [illegible]

SPORTS-SPECTATOR

Golden Gate Fields [illegible] [illegible] Golden Gate Fields, 1100 Eastshore Hwy., Berkeley. [illegible]

Golden State Warriors [illegible] Oakland. [illegible]

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

Wanxin Zhang's clay figures marry historical Chinese references with contemporary Western culture

Three Art Shows Reveal the Truth About Richmond ...

And the richness of the local art community

The Richmond Art Center is a great beacon of light and culture in a city that's often the subject of news that is less than flattering. Three exhibits up now in its three galleries present not only an antithesis to the prevailing narrative of Richmond but also compelling reasons why it's so great to appreciate art in the East Bay. Without a hint of contrivance, the shows organically mesh to portray the pluralistic voice of the community.

In the Main Gallery, *Wanxin Zhang: A Ten Year Survey* creates a city of life-size ceramic people who wish to teach us something of our own past. San Francisco artist Wanxin Zhang uses the massive clay figures to marry historical Chinese references with contemporary Western culture. Each one is infused with information. From the bottom of their feet to the top of their heads, the figures contain a dizzying amount of detail, transmitting a specific artistic end. Join the artist at a workshop on May 5 from 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Across the hall in the South Gallery, *In Conversation: Jane Schwarcz and John Chiara* presents a landscape of inscrutable sculpture and metallic photography, full of mystery and alchemical beauty. Curated by Muriel Maffre, this unique pairing of two artists who transform their material with such mastery leaves us wondering what genre of art it is. Sculpture? Photography? Painting? Yes. Jane Schwarcz' non-utilitarian vessels seem to be ceramic, but are actually painted metal — inexplicably weighty and yet ethereally weightless. John Chiara uses a camera obscura to produce his own photography, developing his simple landscape images on large sheets of thin metal that he then frames to hang on the wall. The effect of the conversation between the two artists is revolutionary in its elegance and mysteriously simple beauty.

What is so striking about the third exhibit in the Community Gallery, the floor-to-ceiling *The 47th Annual WCCUSD Student Art Show*, is not the amount of work, but the quality. The rich compilation of work by kids from across Contra Costa County demonstrates an astounding tradition of local visual arts education. These kids are clearly in good hands, as evidenced by their work, which rivals many professional artists. In this day and age, what a pleasure it is to see such a long-standing tradition of quality student art!

All shows at the Richmond Art Center (2540 Barrett Ave., Richmond) run through June 2. 510-620-6772 or TheRAC.org

— *Obi Kaufmann*

ART GALLERIES

ACCI Gallery: Generation The gallery's annual fiber exhibition. Through May 8. 1652 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-2527. ACCIGallery.com.

[illegible] Gallery: [illegible] [illegible] works by Deborah Barrett. Through May 31. **[illegible]** [illegible] from the gallery's collection. Through May 28. 2001 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-845-4940. [illegible]

Arbor Cafe: [illegible] [illegible] installation by [illegible]. Through May 1. [illegible] Telegraph Ave., Oakland.

BAM/PFA: State of Mind: New California Art Circa 1970 An in-depth survey of conceptual art [illegible] Northern and Southern California. Through June 18. 2626 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-642-0808. BAMPFA.Berkeley.edu.

[illegible] Gallery Oakland: The [illegible] [illegible] Through Apr. [illegible] 3rd St., Oakland. 510-[illegible]

Bay Area Free Store Exchange: [illegible] [illegible] San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. 510-780-1290. BayAreaFreeBookCoop.com.

Berkeley Art Center: Telling Climate: Art, [illegible] [illegible] Through June 2. **Spring Artist Lecture** [illegible] 1275 Walnut St., Berkeley. 510-644-6893. BerkeleyArtCenter.org.

[illegible] Contemporary: [illegible] With paintings and sculpture by Brian Caraway and David Allan Peters. Through May [illegible] 23rd St., Oakland. 510-[illegible]

The [illegible] Gallery & [illegible] With works exploring the American Dream [illegible] Through May 6. **Things Fall Apart** With works by Compound Studio artists [illegible] Through May [illegible] TheCompoundGallery.com.

[illegible] [illegible] collaborative exhibition that explores the meaning of "preservation" [illegible] Through May 8. 2150 [illegible] Way, Berkeley. 510-[illegible]

[illegible] Gallery and [illegible]: Virginia [illegible] With ceramic works. Through May [illegible] Park Place, Point Richmond. 510-[illegible]

Oakland: Solo Exhibit by Santiago Bernal Through May 11. [illegible] Jefferson St., Oakland.

Expressions Gallery: This Land Is My Land [illegible] Through June 1. 2035 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. 510-644-4930. ExpressionsGallery.org.

[illegible] [illegible] Through May 26. [illegible] Oakland. 510-[illegible]

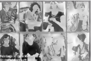
Garage Gallery: People Think They Know [illegible] Apr. 28-May 13. [illegible] Wheeler St., Berkeley. 510-[illegible]

[illegible] Projects: [illegible] Image of You [illegible] Through May 13. **[illegible]** [illegible] Through May 13. [illegible]

PICKS

Gray Loft Gallery

The artistic community that inhabits the Gray Loft Gallery (2889 Ford St., Oakland) marks the thirtieth anniversary of that alternative space with the show *20 Connect*. The multimedia exhibit — featuring work by ten artists, all tenants and longstanding friends — is destined to become a benchmark in the [illegible] art scene. Back in 1982, the artists, many of whom have gone on to very successful careers, all lived in this building together. Photographer Jan Watten has recently transformed her studio into a very comfortable, well-lit gallery. While eclectic, the work is clearly cohered by the artists' history, yet individual works of genius can be found throughout. The gallery only keeps regular hours on Saturday afternoons, but appointments are available. *20 Connect* runs through May 25. 510-[illegible] or GrayLoftGallery.Blogspot.com. — *Obi Kaufmann*



Obi Kaufmann

Mercury 20

With three galleries in one, Mercury 20 (475 25th St., Oakland) might be expected to be a hodgepodge of artists, but it turns out that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. The three shows up now reinforce this point eloquently. Room one holds the epic swath-of-blue paintings by Eric Tabor in a movement he calls *Variations*. In room two are a series of emphatic, forceful black-and-white paintings by Terryl Dunn called *Megathrust*. Make your way to room three to discover the startlingly original group show by Peter Honig, Dave Meeker, and P.K. Pressell, entitled *Object Lessons* — a show of beautifully made things that defy easy explanation, are seemingly tongue-in-cheek in nature, and clearly exhibit expert craftsmanship. Shows runs through May 5. 510-701-4620 or MercuryTwenty.com. — *O.K.*

Where Do I Get An Image of You [illegible] Through May 13. [illegible] Ave., Oakland. [illegible]

[illegible] Community Art Gallery: Spring With works by [illegible] Apr. 28-June 14. [illegible] Telegraph Ave., [illegible] 510-[illegible]

Johansson Projects: [illegible] [illegible] Through May 5. 2300 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-444-9140. JohanssonProjects.com.

[illegible] [illegible] Through June 29 [illegible] Through June 29. [illegible]

K Gallery: [illegible] [illegible] Through May 14. [illegible] Alameda. 510-[illegible]

Kala Art Institute Gallery: Kala-[illegible] [illegible] Through Apr. 27. [illegible] San Pablo Ave., [illegible] Kala.org.

[illegible] With photographs [illegible] Through Apr. 28. [illegible] 23rd St., [illegible]

La Peña Cultural Center: [illegible] [illegible] Through Apr. 30. 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] Through May 5. [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] Through Apr. 29. 4030 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland. [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]: The Split [illegible] multimedia video piece [illegible] Through July 4. **[illegible] The Split** [illegible] 2121 Allston Way, Berkeley. [illegible]

[illegible]: Signs of Things to Come [illegible] Through May 31. [illegible] Broadway, [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] Through Apr. 28. [illegible] 25th St., Oakland. 510-[illegible]

[illegible] Workshop: [illegible] [illegible] Through May 19. [illegible] Oakland. 510-[illegible]

[illegible] Museum: The Last [illegible] On Earth: [illegible] 2012 [illegible] [illegible] Apr. 28-May 27. 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-430-2164. [illegible]

[illegible] Fine Art & Artifacts: [illegible] of the Invisible World With drawings, etchings, and watercolors by [illegible] Through Apr. 29. [illegible] Solano Ave., Berkeley. 510-[illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] Through Apr. 19. [illegible] 25th St., Oakland. [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] Through May 12. [illegible]

[illegible] Gallery: Pages of [illegible] [illegible] Apr. 28. 4021 Telegraph Ave., [illegible]

[illegible]

San Pablo Art Gallery: [illegible] [illegible] Through May 30. 13831 San Pablo Ave., San Pablo.

[illegible] Gallery: [illegible] [illegible] Through May 21. 1400 Fifth St., Berkeley. 510-[illegible]

SLATE contemporary: [illegible] [illegible] Through Apr. 28. 473 25th St., Oakland. 510-[illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] Through May 21. [illegible] Through May 21. [illegible] Oakland. 510-[illegible]

Telegraph: [illegible] [illegible] Through Apr. 30. [illegible] Telegraph Ave., Oakland. [illegible]

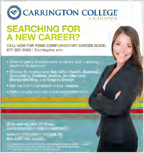
[illegible] [illegible] Through Apr. 28. 1812 Fifth St., Berkeley. [illegible]

[illegible] Contemporary: [illegible] [illegible] Through June 30. [illegible] Colusa Ave., Berkeley. 510-[illegible]

UC [illegible] [illegible] Through May [illegible] Hall, Berkeley. [illegible]

Uptown [illegible] Saturday Stroll A [illegible] Saturdays, 1-5 p.m. [illegible] Telegraph Ave., Oakland.

[illegible] Gallery: [illegible] [illegible] Through Apr. 28. 471 25th St., Oakland.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THEATER & DANCE

COMEDY

Battle Stache Stuffed' Mustachio Cartoons A comedy show incorporating subtitles, local musicians, and short films. Co-presented by Oakland Indie Mayhem. through Apr 28, 8 p.m. BattleStacheStuffed.com. Firehouse Art Collective, 3192 Adeline St., Berkeley.

Bob St. Paul With Joe "Bruce" Gilbert Rodriguez, and Mike Spiegelman, and Josef Anolin. Hosted by Joe Klocek. Sat., Apr 28, 8 p.m. $20. 510-214-2020, ComedyOffBroadwayOakland.com. Miss Pearl's Restaurant & Lounge (at the Waterfront Hotel), One Broadway at Jack London Square, Oakland. 510-444-7171, MissPearlsJamHouse.com.

Jewish Show With Jeff Applebaum, Nato Green, Brian Kiley, Steve Bottel, and John Seltzer. Hosted by Joe Klocek and Samson Koletkar. Thu., Apr 26, 8 p.m. $12. 510-214-2020. ComedyOffBroadwayOakland.com. Miss Pearl's Restaurant & Lounge (at the Waterfront Hotel), One Broadway at Jack London Square, Oakland. 510-444-7171, MissPearlsJamHouse.com.

Queer Tee With Sammy Mesler. Sat., Apr 28, 8 p.m. $15-$20. Englander Sports Pub, 101 Parrott St., San Leandro, 510-357-3571, EnglanderPub.com.

Sylvan Productions Comedy With Kurt Weitzmann, Howard Stone, and Zahir Greenwald. Open mic begins at 6:30 p.m. Thu., Apr 26, 8-9:30 p.m. free. Vault, 371 Broadway, Oakland, 510-452-8023, VaultOakland.com.

The Young With Rebecca Arthur, Ivan Hernandez, and Raymond Saxon. Hosted by Joe Klocek and Samson Koletkar. Fri., Apr 27, 8 p.m. $13. 510-214-2020. ComedyOffBroadwayOakland.com. Miss Pearl's Restaurant & Lounge (at the Waterfront Hotel), One Broadway at Jack London Square, Oakland. 510-444-7171, MissPearlsJamHouse.com.

DANCE-PERFORMANCE

Berkeley Dance Project 2012: Dance the *Mask* With three choreographic premieres exploring the theme of transformation within community: *The roots are torn from a dream of the living*, *Searching for the Moon in the Deep Night Sky*, and *(Thing) room*. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m. Sundays, 2 p.m. Continues through Apr 29. $10-$15. bit.ly/TDPSDance2012. Zellerbach Playhouse, 2430 Bancroft Ave., Berkeley. 510-642-9988, CalPerfs.Berkeley.edu.

CubaCaribe Dance Festival The world premiere of Kiyo Dance Company's Afro-Cuban *Hamlet* dance performance. Apr 27-28, 8 p.m.; Sun., Apr 29, 2 p.m. $15-$24. 831-818-9000. CubaCaribe.org. Laney College Theater, 900 Fallon St., Oakland. 510-464-3250.

Dance... With a performance and tribute to all dancers Oakland by Janet Franklin-Brown. Apr 20-28, 8 p.m. $12-$15. Smith Center, Ohlone College, 43600 Mission Blvd., Fremont. 510-659-6031. SmithCenter.com.

Dance-A-Rama 2012 With swing, stomp, and social dance performances on the hour to celebrate Oakland Dance Week. Sun., Apr 29, 1-5 p.m. free. $15. 510-467-8 DanceCollective.org. Eighth Dance Studio, 2525 Eighth St., Berkeley. 510-527-5615.

LIVE VARIETY

Burlesque Noir Presents: *La Belle Epoque* With Ivy Tyne, Irene Stone, Verona La Rouge, Bunny Von Ball, and Rose Reve, Casey Castille, Coeur de Noir, The Can-Cannibals, and Soleil La Noir. Sat., Apr 28, 7 p.m. $8-$12. Shattuck Down Low, 2284 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-655-4035, ShattuckDownLow.com.

THEATER & PERFORMING ARTS

Aurora Script Club With a moderated discussion of Anna Deavere Smith's play *Fires in the Mirror*. Mon., Apr 30, 7:30 p.m. free. Aurora Theatre, 2081 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-843-4822, AuroraTheatre.org.

Ben Pearl's *the Kipling Hotel: True Misadventures of the Falstaff Flash* Reed's one-man show chronicles his misadventures throughout the 1960s, from failed premiere at Burning as a stripper and a gigolo to his stint as a live-in waiter at a retirement hotel. Saturdays, 8:30 p.m., Sundays, 1 p.m. Continues through May 6, $20-$50. The Marsh Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-704-8291, TheMarsh.org.

A Hot Day in Ephesus Bunya Ensemble of Berkeley presents a musical based upon Shakespeare's *The Comedy of Errors*. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through May 19. $12-$15. Live Oak Theater, 1301 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-848-5603.

In Paris Dmitry Krymov's subtitled play adapted from Ivan Bunin's short story, told in French and Russian with English subtitles. Sundays, 2 p.m., Saturdays, 2 & 8 p.m., Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, 8 p.m., Wednesdays, 7 p.m. Continues through May 13. $82.50-$125. Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-647-2949, BerkeleyRep.org.

Lucky Duck Kimberly Ferry's musical "ugly duckling" fairy tale for all ages. Sundays, 12 & 5 p.m. Saturdays, 2 & 7 p.m. Thursdays, 1 p.m. Fri., May 11, 7 p.m. Continues through May 13. $17-$35. 510-845-8542 x351, BerkeleyPlayhouse.org. Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-8542, JuliaMorgan.org.

Marga Gomez's *Not Getting Any Younger* Gomez's coming of middle age story takes the audience from her childhood and to a fairy tale to the Bronx to her humorous urges in a Forever 21. Starting Apr 21. Saturdays, 5 p.m. Sundays, 8 p.m. Continues through May 19. $15-$50. The Marsh Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-704-8291, TheMarsh.org.

Pride and Prejudice San Leandro Players presents an updated version of the Jane Austen classic, adapted and directed by Kellie Hunt. Sundays, 2 p.m. Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through May 13. $15-$20. San Leandro Museum of History, 320 West Estudillo Ave., San Leandro. 510-351-3991, SLPlayers.org.

The Real Inspector Hound* and *The Fifteen-Minute Hamlet Two one-act comedies by Tom Stoppard: the former an Agatha Christie spoof, the latter a comedic abridgement of William Shakespeare's famous tragedy. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through Apr. 29. $20. Masquers Playhouse, 105 Park Pl., Point Richmond. 510-232-4031, Masquers.org.

Red Les Waters directs John Logan's Broadway play about an artist's struggle to finish a series of murals. Call or check theater for random dates. Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, 8 p.m. Saturdays, 2 & 8 p.m., Sundays, 2 & 7 p.m., Wednesdays, 7 p.m. Continues through May 12. $14.50-$89. Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-647-2949, BerkeleyRep.org.

PICKS

Dances from the Heart

Experience a different kind of dance program on Wednesday, Apr 25, when high profile companies come together at the bay units at Fort Mason's Cowell Theater (Marina Blvd. at Buchanan St., San Francisco) to benefit the Richmond/Ermet AIDS Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to raising funds and awareness for AIDS-related services. In store is a dance-lover's dream evening, from Argentine tango to modern. Representing the East Bay are Walnut Creek's Company C Contemporary Ballet and Diablo Ballet, joining choreographer (and Diablo Ballet dancer) Robert Dekkers's Post: Ballet, Nu Lu Hula, ODC, Ballet San Jose, Amy Seiwert's Imagery, Smuin Ballet, and Nikki and Ethan White's White Tree Fine Art. Along with Richmond/Ermet proceeds benefit Larkin Street Youth Services and Dancers Group's Parachute Fund. 7:30 p.m. $30-$1,000. 415-273-1620 or RichmondErmet.org — *Claudia Bauer*

Anatol

Written by Arthur Schnitzler — a contemporary of Freud's in the upper-class, largely Jewish milieu of 1890s Vienna — in 1893, *Anatol* features as its antihero and title character a moody, well-off bachelor. Along with his best friend and comic foil Max (Tim Kniffin), Anatol (Mike Ryan) is essentially sleeping his way through the women of Vienna's upper crust — all played by Delia MacDougall — with reckless abandon and startling efficiency. It's a setup that could easily derive its comedy at the expense of the women or, worse, feel dated, but Aurora Theatre Company's production avoids both dangers. Much of this is by virtue of the script, but Margaret Schaefer also deserves major credit for her natural-sounding translation, as does Barbara Oliver for her direction. In this *Anatol*, the title character is played not as an unassailable charmer but as a naively deluded man-boy — one that works well against the sparkling, slow-burning wit MacDougall manages to inject into all of her characters. Thus, it's really a play about the misunderstandings inherent in any romantic relationship and about the lies we tell ourselves and others. In that sense, it's timeless. Through May 13 at Aurora Theatre Company (2081 Addison St., Berkeley). $30-$48. 510-843-4822 or AuroraTheatre.org. — *Ellen Cushing*

Diablo Ballet.

2011–2012 SEASON

music dance theater

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Sandrine Piau, *soprano*
Susan Manoff, *piano*
Sun, April 29, 3 pm, Hertz Hall

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Program: Songs by Mendelssohn, Fauré, Chausson, Strauss, Ravel, Poulenc, and Britten

Part of the Koret Recital Series

San Francisco Symphony
Jane Glover, *conductor*
Tue, May 1, 8 pm, Zellerbach Hall

Enjoy the acclaimed San Francisco Symphony at Cal Performances for the first time in over 20 years. Led by acclaimed British conductor and Baroque specialist Jane Glover, the orchestra performs some of Bach and Handel's most joyful, jubilant, and adored music.

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Dianne Reeves
Fri, May 4, 8 pm, Zellerbach Hall

Winner of 4 consecutive Grammys for Best Jazz Vocal Performance—a first in any vocal category—this jazz diva consistently delivers unforgettable performances.

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Sun, May 6, 7 pm, Zellerbach Hall

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THEATER REVIEW

THE BURDEN OF OLEANNA

A shoestring theater company tackles issues of class and privilege by way of Mamet.

By Rachel Swan

Michael Storm and Josie Alvarez in *Oleanna*

TheatreFIRST czar Michael Storm wrote in a recent email: "You will NOT see this from me again. Mark my words." He was responding to a reviewer's genuine adulation ("I have no idea how you balance artistic directing with acting, but I'm endlessly impressed"). It would be a shame if he did, indeed, give up the craft, even if he's currently acting under duress. The exigencies of running one of the most successful "poor companies" in the Bay Area means Storm is constantly looking for ways to produce a worthy show on an $8,000 budget. Usually, the solution is to hire one actor and a small crew of set designers, then direct and act himself.

Thus, he starred in TheatreFIRST's well-crafted 2010 production of the Tom Stoppard play *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*, in the 2011 play *Hanging Georgia*, and in the company's current staging of David Mamet's 1992 drama *Oleanna*, in which an argument between a professor and one of his female students devolves into malicious accusations of sexual harassment. Written around the time of the Anita Hill hearings, the play is steeped in the discourse of the time. Sexual harassment was an old practice but a relatively new concept. It was inflammatory but also ambiguous: it could be a great equalizer for women, or a tool with which to manipulate the power structure, or a way to tackle a more abstract and opaque form of social disparity.

Storm added an extra layer of complication by casting a Latina actress, Josie Alvarez, in the role of the student, Carol. Instantly, the power dynamic becomes more pronounced, and it's much harder to think of Carol as a conniving brat who uses sexual harassment opportunistically. The language barrier between them (she begs him to stop using big vocabulary words) and the lameness of his statement that really "I'm just like you" take on a different meaning when gender privilege is compounded by race and class. Moreover, Carol is made to look young and innocent in this play, with her preppy shirts, carefully tabulated notes, and bulky backpack — at one point, she uses the hem of the bag to wipe tears from her eyes. The opening scene of the play, in which the professor leaves Carol waiting at the door of his office while he engages in a heated phone conversation about real estate, seems all the more insensitive as the differences between them are revealed. So too is his book — required reading in Carol's class — questioning the value of higher education, and his cavalier line about property taxes for schools being "the white man's burden."

How the professor, John, emerges as a sympathetic character is largely a matter of how Michael Storm approaches the role. It could also be a testament to his natural air of humility, or the vanquished look he brings to his character: all messed hair and puppy eyes, his clothing progressively more disheveled as the play wears on. And perhaps some of that could be attributed to his real-life predicament of having to double as both the director and male lead. Mamet is taxing, indeed, and memorizing the lines for one character is by itself a valiant undertaking. Storm's exhaustion is visible in all the lines and crags of his face, and he lends a world-weary melancholia to an otherwise vile character. At many points he makes the professor seem almost likable. Almost.

Perhaps that's a dubious silver lining for a man whose burden far surpasses that of a comfortable university professor. The labor that went into this play is evident from the opening scene, when Storm and Alvarez struggle through Mamet's tortuous script. Every Mamet play is, in essence, a series of cross-examinations. Sentences end in ellipses; characters interject and cut each other off. It's hard to make that feel natural on stage, and in this particular play, you often hear a pause between two lines of dialogue when in fact one character is supposed to be interrupting the other. Even one beat of silence can make the whole thing seem stagey and canned — more a reader's theater than an actual argument.

That got better as the play progressed during opening night, and it will surely improve by leaps and bounds later in the run. Other elements of *Oleanna* were artfully executed and helped add dimension to an already fraught conflict. Like Storm, Alvarez radiates a natural sweetness that belies the despicable behavior of her character, and she manages to evoke pity even while cudgeling an already-disgraced professor. Small details like the severity of her ponytail in Act II help underscore the shifting power dynamic without obfuscating the humanity of each character. And the race element — which, Storm notes, was deliberate — is a brilliant addition. Particularly for a play shown in Berkeley, just blocks away from a university that has become a locus of race and class conflict in the higher-education system at large. ◆

Rachel.Swan@EastBayExpress.com

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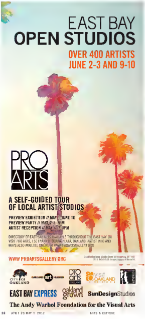
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Lisa Middendorp, *Golden State*, oil on canvas, 36" x 48", 2011. Artist #155. Image courtesy of the artist.

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LECTURES&LIT

Believe It or Not

Dirt digs below the surface to discover what happens when people stop being polite

David Vann is pretty sure you won't believe him. His latest novel, *Dirt*, was written in just five and a half months at a deliberate pace of two pages per day. An almost religious writing experience, this "grueling repetitive practice" produced a tightly paced novel focusing on one family's extreme relationships. Vann, who reads from the novel on Tuesday, May 1, at Moe's Books (2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley), submitted the book to his publishers and they printed it almost without edits. If he were a baseball player, that would be knocking it out of the park.

Structured like a Greek tragedy, *Dirt* spans only ten days and shifts between two main locations: an old orchard homestead wasting away between encroaching subdivisions, its rows of walnut trees heavy and stifling in the Sacramento Delta heat, and the Sierra cabin where protagonist Galen's family vacations. In many ways, it is the typical American family: Galen's mother and aunt fight constantly over the family's fortune while their mother slips in and out of lucidity. Galen and his fiery cousin Jennifer dare each other to take their malevolent flirting to the next level, and the entire family's interactions are replete with hatred, anger, and a hint of violence. "Greek tragedy takes a relationship, defined space, and tries to break those characters to find out who they are," Vann said. "The hope is that as we watch them break we'll find out something about ourselves, that they'll speak to more than individuals; they'll speak to the human experience. It's up to the readers, but all I can do as a writer is follow moment by moment."

David Vann [illegible]

As Vann wrote without a fixed story or plan, each page was as much a revelation to him as it is to readers. *Dirt* borrows from memories of his own familial landscape and, after two previous books, *Caribou Island* and *Legend of a Suicide*, set in frigid Alaskan climates, Vann felt like this was getting him closer to the inferno. "The external landscape is a way to describe the internal of the character," he explained. "Since writing is unconscious ... it relies on the landscape suggesting, transforming, shifting, and becoming something other than literal." As the pages accumulated, the landscape "kept becoming crazy," sending Galen and company into a heated madness. "That's what interests me, getting as close as possible to these characters and not letting them escape."

Serving as comic relief like a modern Shakespearean fool, Galen's very 1980s, very Californian, youthful obsession with all things New Age, from reading *Siddhartha* and *The Prophet* to attempting etheric surgery and fire-walking to imagining that he can walk across water, arms out and eyes closed. "I found it a very funny book to write," Vann said. "I was chuckling every day as I wrote it." But as the family members spend more time together, they start unraveling in ways that are anything but enjoyable, leading to the denouement in the walnut orchard.

To Vann, "the book is really about how philosophy can lead to brutality," which gives you a hint of how things turn out. The author achieved catharsis when he reached the end. Here's to hoping you will, too. 7 p.m., free. 510-849-2087 or MoesBooks.com.

—Alison Peters

LECTURES

Bill Cavanaugh: "The Myth of Religious Violence" A discussion by the DePaul University guest lecturer at room 222. For more info: [illegible]@Berkeley.edu. Thu., Apr. 26, 3:30-5:30 p.m. Moses Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley.

[illegible]: "Mexico 2012 and Beyond" The professor of political science at the Instituto Tecnológico de México discusses Mexico's hidden democratic, [illegible] and economic reforms difficult to [illegible]. Fri., Apr. 27, noon. 510-642-2448. International House, 2299 Piedmont Ave., Berkeley. 510-642-9490.

The East Bay Science Café: "How Indian [illegible] is [illegible]?" Visiting scholar Dr. [illegible]. Wed., May 2, 7-9 p.m. Café Valparaiso, 1403 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-2805. CafeValparaiso.com.

Judith Heumann on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Heumann is joined by panelists to discuss the rights of persons with disabilities. To request accommodation: [illegible]@Berkeley.edu. Mon., Apr. 30, 3:30-5:30 p.m. Alumni House, UC Berkeley Campus, Berkeley.

Mahmood Monshipouri: "The Arab Uprisings: Youth, Technology and Human Rights" The SF State professor in the Department of International Relations discusses how a combination of youth and technology led to unprecedented revolutionary change in the region. Thu., Apr. 26, 5 p.m. Center for Middle Eastern Studies, 340 Stephens Hall, Berkeley.

[illegible]: "Nonviolent Communication" The certified trainer of Nonviolent Communication shares techniques for transforming conflict into harmony. Sun., Apr. 29, 11 a.m.-noon. 510-451-3008. [illegible]Harmony.org. Oakland Veterans Hall, 200 Grand Ave., Oakland.

[illegible] and Plowshares Nuclear Prisoner Susan Crane Just released from Dublin's Federal Correctional Institution, Crane shares stories of the six years she spent in prisons for resisting weapons of mass destruction. Thu., Apr. 26, 7 p.m. $5-$10. Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, 1924 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-841-4824. BFUU.org.

Philosophy Talk: "Hypocrisy" with Lawrence Quill John and Ken talk hypocrisy with the author of *Civil Disobedience: (Un)Common Sense in Mass Democracies*. Sun., Apr. 29, 3-4:30 p.m. $15. 800-724-7193. BrownPaperTickets.com/event/198709. The Marsh Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-704-8291. TheMarsh.org.

Philosophy Talk: "Identities Lost and Found in a Global Age" with Bharati Mukherjee John and Ken discuss [illegible] relationship to identity with the UC Berkeley English Professor and author of *Miss New India*. Sun., Apr. 29, 12-1:30 p.m. $15. 800-724-7193. BrownPaperTickets.com/event/198709. The Marsh Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-704-8291. TheMarsh.org.

[illegible]: "The [illegible] of [illegible] in America: Implications for the World" The [illegible] discusses the social, political, and economic climate in the U.S. and its implications for the world today. Thu., Apr. 26, 7:30 p.m. free-$10. [illegible]Spring2012[illegible]. International House, 2299 Piedmont Ave., Berkeley. 510-642-9490.

Symposium: "Rights Inquiry: Forms of [illegible] in the Age of New Media" Scholars, artists, and media industry representatives reflect on knowledge in the digital age. Fri., Apr. 27, 12-6 p.m.; Sat., Apr. 28, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 510-495-3505. [illegible]Berkeley.edu. [illegible] Auditorium, [illegible] Hall, Berkeley.

Symposium: "The 21st Berkeley Indian [illegible]: Working Towards Being Storm Proof" Expert lectures and discussions by Indian policymakers, planners, and civil society activists from UC Berkeley and India. [illegible] Hall, room [illegible]. Apr. 27-28, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. 510-642-[illegible]. UC Berkeley Campus, UC Berkeley Campus, Berkeley.

Victoria Nelson: "Gothicka: Vampire Heroes, Human Gods, and the New Supernatural" Nelson discusses her book about the evolution of "gothic" in the 21st Century. Tue., May 1, 7:30 p.m. University Press Books, 2430 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-548-0585. UniversityPressBooks.com.

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Author Appearance May 16 at 7pm.

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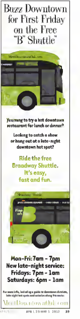

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PICKS

Athena Kashyap and Arisa White

It's National Poetry Month, and at Moe's Books (2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley) on Thursday, Apr. 26 that means a chance to witness poets presenting their first books. Athena Kashyap reads from *Crossing Black Waters*, which navigates Indian history and the immigrant experience, and Arisa White, a native New Yorker now living in Oakland, presents *Hurrah's Nest*, which draws from her life growing up in Brooklyn with seven siblings and one parent. Both readings should be sublime. 7 p.m., free. 510-849-2133 or MoesBooks.com. —*Alison Peters*

Leo Litwak

Detroit native and San Francisco State professor Leo Litwak brings to life the Motor City world of 1950. Ford churning out cars, veterans back at home with family, a real-estate crash on the horizon. Two orphans turn eighteen, venture into the world, and dream dreams. *Home for Sale* is at once a coming-of-age story and a commentary on the boom and bust of real estate, while a city hangs in the balance. At Mrs. Dalloway's (2904 College Ave., Berkeley) on Friday, Apr. 27, 7:30 p.m., free. 510-704-8222 or MrsDalloways.com. —*A.P.*

Bryant Terry

Bryant Terry is a triple threat: author, food justice activist, and chef. He also hosts a web video series and creates delicious, healthy, sustainable recipes from his home in Oakland. In *The Inspired Vegan*, Terry shares his favorite recipes and cooking techniques acquired from his grandparents in Memphis, Tennessee. Terry promotes cooking at home and sharing family meals using the sensual pleasures of the table, with the end goal of making sure that no one goes hungry and that we all eat healthily. At Moe's Books (2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley) on Monday, Apr. 30, 7 p.m., free. 510-849-2133 or MoesBooks.com. —*A.P.*

Dennis J. Bernstein

Special Ed: Voices From a Hidden Classroom explores

Bryant Terry

the lives of the real New York public schoolchildren that author Dennis J. Bernstein once taught. Bernstein, who went on to become an investigative journalist specializing in human rights and who now lives in San Francisco, presents his first full poetry collection, where classroom education takes a backseat to real life issues like hunger, drugs, weapons, and visits from the police. And, of course, how to stay strong and survive. At Diesel (5433 College Ave., Oakland) on Sunday, Apr. 29, 3 p.m., free. 510-653-9965 or DieselBookstore.com. —*A.P.*

LITERARY EVENTS

Alameda Island Poets and Writers [illegible] presents *Turning a Train of Thought Upside Down: An Anthology of Women's Poetry*. Wed., May 2, 1 p.m. Books Inc. Alameda, 1344 Park St., Alameda. 510-522-2226. BooksInc.net/Alameda.

Alice Jones and Barbara Jenkins Reading from *Plunge* and *Western Practice*, respectively. Thu., Apr. 26, 7 p.m. Diesel, A Bookstore, 5433 College Ave., Oakland. 510-653-9965. DieselBookstore.com.

The "B.O.P." Social Network Book Regime For ages 18 and up. Sun., Apr. 29, 2 p.m. Books Inc. Alameda, 1344 Park St., Alameda. 510-522-2226. BooksInc.net/Alameda.

Bill Mayer and Anita Barrows Reading from their new works, 8 p.m., following a screening of [illegible] *My Sarah* about his life and art. Sat., Apr. 28, 6-9 p.m. Mythos Fine Art & Artifacts, 1767 Solano Ave., Berkeley. 510-828-4081. MythosFineArt.com.

Eastwind: [illegible] Rebecca Reading from her new novel, *Perla*. Sun., Apr. 29, 4 p.m. Mrs. Dalloway's, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-8222. MrsDalloways.com.

[illegible] Book Warehouse Sale Presented by the Escapist Comic Bookstore, with book comics under $[illegible]. At 3122 Eighth St., Berkeley. Apr. 28-29, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Dale Jensen and Jodi Yates Reading from their respective works of poetry, followed by an open mic. Sat., Apr. 28, 1-6 p.m. Frank Bette Center for the Arts, 1601 Paru St., Alameda. 510-523-6957. FrankBetteCenter.org.

Desert Island Book Tour Discussing Bernice McFadden's *Gathering of Waters*. Thu., Apr. 26, 7 p.m. Books Inc. Alameda, 1344 Park St., Alameda. 510-522-2226. BooksInc.net/Alameda.

Digital Bookmobile Tour Showcasing Bay Area public libraries' free eBook and audiobook download services. Visit [illegible] for scheduled bookmobile stops. Through Apr. 29. DigitalBookmobile.com.

Fifth [illegible] Poem Giveaway Customers receive printed "pocket poems," featuring Bay Area poets including [illegible]. Through Apr. 30, 12-7 p.m. Mrs. Dalloway's, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-8222. MrsDalloways.com.

Mary Mahoney and Book Rogue Reading from their respective new works of *Sugar Zone* and *My Misplaced the Rolling Horizon*. Sun., Apr. 29, 3-4:30 p.m. Mythos Fine Art & Artifacts, 1767 Solano Ave., Berkeley. 510-828-4081. MythosFineArt.com.

Melanie Thorne, Sara Prince Bearman, and Amy Franklin-Willis Reading from their respective debut novels, *The Underside of Joy*, *[illegible] Sisters of Dennison*, and *Hand Me Down*. Fri., Apr. 27, 7 p.m. A Great Good Place for Books, 6120 LaSalle Ave., Oakland. 510-339-8210. GreatGoodPlace.IndieBound.com.

Sarah Rosenthal, [illegible], and [illegible] Reading from their debut poetry collections: *The Local World*, *Litany for the City*, and *The Correction*. Thu., Apr. 26, 7:30 p.m. Mrs. Dalloway's, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-8222. MrsDalloways.com.

Downtown: Poetry Night Poetry Unbound presents readings from poets including George Albon, Maxine Chernoff, Norma Cole, [illegible], and more. Fri., Apr. 27, 7 p.m. Pegasus Books Downtown, 2349 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-649-1320. PegasusBookstore.com.

[illegible] Reading from his new book *Aum*, about the south of France. Sat., Apr. 28, 12-3 p.m. The Book Shop, 1001 B St., Hayward. 510-538-3841. HaywardBookShop.com.

Public Poetry Banquet With readings by participants in the 2012 Student Poetry Contest, followed by an all-ages open reading. Mon., Apr. 30, 4-6:30 p.m. Alameda Multicultural Community Center, 1900 Third St., Alameda. 510-523-6408.

Rebecca Solnit Discussing her book, *A Paradise Built in Hell*. Sat., Apr. 28, 2-4 p.m. Hayward Public Library, 835 C St., Hayward. 510-293-8685. Library.Hayward-CA.gov.

Regina E. Mahoney Reading from her debut novel, *The Book of Madness and Cures*. Thu., Apr. 26, 1 p.m. A Great Good Place for Books, 6120 LaSalle Ave., Oakland. 510-339-8210. GreatGoodPlace.IndieBound.com.

Conference: Alameda Storytelling: The International Language With storytelling for and by people of all ages and cultures. Sun., Apr. 29, 3:30 p.m. $6-12. 510-444-4385, x124. Stagebridge.org. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

Valley of Shadows & Dust An exhibition of a book of contemporary photographs highlighting socioeconomic [illegible] in the Central Valley by Ken Light, with text by Melanie Light. Through May 15. Center for Photography, Northgate Hall, Graduate School of Journalism, Berkeley.

Youth Poet Laureate Competition For student [illegible] and San Francisco residents ages 13-18. The inaugural competition results in one Youth Poet Laureate from each city, each [illegible] with $9,000 in scholarships and more. Through May 15. YouthSpeaks.org.

PUBLIC INTEREST

California Student Conference: "[illegible] California?" [illegible] "A Century of Progressivism: The [illegible] Legacy of 1911," "The Underrepresented: People of Color in Electoral Politics," "It's All About the Money: The Corruptions of Public Finance," and much more. Sat., Apr. 28, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. $15-$40. CaliforniaHistoricalAssociation.Berkeley.edu/conference. Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak St., Oakland. 510-318-8400. MuseumCA.org.

OUSD Parent-Teacher Summit With a "solvable" dialogue about improving learning for Oakland's [illegible] students. At the International Community School, 2825 International Blvd., Oakland. Thu., Apr. 26, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Oakland Prevention Initiative: Stakeholders Meet Will update about the initiative's current projects and progress in community violence prevention. Thu., Apr. 26, 6:30-8:30 p.m. 510-748-2276. [illegible]. College of Alameda, E Building, 555 Ralph Appezzato Memorial Pkwy., Alameda. 510-748-2249. Alameda.Peralta.edu.

Voter Education Event With a panel discussion and Q&A with city council candidates, information about the June 5 election, voter registration, and more. At the UFCW 5 Hall (28870 Mission Blvd.), Hayward. Mon., Apr. 30, 4-6 p.m. SouthHaywardParish.org.

SPOKEN WORD

The Berkeley Slam featuring [illegible] With spoken word and an improvisational band, DJ, hosted by [illegible]. Sign up [illegible]. Wed., May 2, 8 p.m. $8. Starry Plough, 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-2082. StarryPloughPub.com. ●

FOOD & DRINK

The papaya salad was notable for its freshness, but it lacked pungency

Chris Duffey

COME FOR THE SLOT CARS, STAY FOR THE KHAO TOM

Home-style Thai at Homeroom Racing Cafe

By Luke Tsai

At Homeroom Racing Cafe, probably the most idiosyncratic Thai restaurant in Alameda, the soundtrack for your meal is a blend of smooth jazz Muzak and the high pitched whir of electric race cars. Vintage auto posters cover the walls. *Star Wars* model spacecraft and superhero action figures dangle from the ceiling, and the four or five TV monitors are always tuned in to something random — a nature show on manatees, during one of my visits.

The overall vibe is more ten-year-old-boy's-basement-hideaway than restaurant, with a no-frills dining area that's little more than plastic-topped tables and folding chairs. Casual is an understatement.

In truth, Homeroom Racing Cafe is a dual storefront of sorts: kids and hobbyists gravitating toward the impressive miniaturized Grand Prix race track that fills the back room, diners digging into chef Arista Saengchan's home-style Thai cooking up front.

Business in the front, party in the back.

Saengchan co-owns the restaurant with her husband Harry Velez, who conceded that race cars and Thai food aren't exactly a classic combo. According to Velez, they'd gotten the idea to open the restaurant at their current Park Street location seven years ago, but were stuck in limbo while the landlord did construction on the building. Unable to install a kitchen, Velez got it in his head to set up a slot car race track — a hobby he'd picked up in his retirement years — as a sort of side business.

So was born Homeroom Racing Cafe, a purveyor of wholesome fun that for a time boasted the "largest, longest standing Carrera track in the United States." And for nearly five years, the track formed the entirety of the business. Velez and Saengchan set up shop across town, on Webster Street, for a while but moved back in 2009 when their kitchen was ready. And while they've experimented with rebranding the restaurant portion of their business under a different name — House Royale Cuisine (also HRC; get it?) — everyone knows the place as Homeroom Racing Cafe.

Anyway, we're here to talk about the food. Saengchan serves what she describes as "country-style" Thai cooking — heavy on the fresh herbs and aromatics. So during one visit, we ordered a combination plate that included fried chicken wings, papaya salad, and sticky rice. The sticky rice was okay (a little hard, actually), and the lemongrass-and-turmeric-marinated wings were tasty (crisp and served piping hot). But the winner was the papaya salad, for the freshness of the green papaya and carrot shreds, the brightness of the flavors. Mind you, there wasn't the punch-in-the-face pungency and spiciness that you get at some of the more aggressively authentic Thai places. Saengchan is pretty restrained in her use of fish sauce and shrimp paste, but the spice levels are adjustable. If you like more heat, ask for "Thai spicy."

Meanwhile, HRC's Tom Yum Noodle Soup, the classic hot-and-sour soup, does pack a fiery punch, which is balanced by the earthiness of fried garlic and a lovely bit of acid from Kaffir lime. Topped with ground chicken, this was a substantial bowl of soup — flawless except for the fact that there were way too many noodles, which became mushy after they'd absorbed much of the liquid.

None of Saengchan's food is especially fancy. In fact, most of the dishes on the menu are standards you'll find at any Americanized Thai eatery: pad Thai, chicken satay, a variety of curries with mix-and-match proteins. HRC's bread-and-butter is well-executed and accessible Thai food — it isn't the kind of place to go looking for obscure regional items.

Still, there are pleasant surprises. During one visit, I asked our server if there were any items that weren't listed on the regular menu. She recommended the rice soup, which she described as "sick person's food." This turned out to be a variation on khao tom, a popular breakfast dish in Thailand. There isn't so much rice, and it isn't cooked so long that you end up with porridge. Instead, HRC's version is a rich and super-herbaceous — cilantro lovers only, please — chicken soup with tender bits of shredded chicken and the individual grains of rice still intact on the bottom of the bowl. Delicious.

On another occasion, I ordered the spicy Thai-style burger listed only on a signboard by the door. This came with grilled onions, lettuce, and tomato, all piled on top of a generic supermarket sesame bun that wasn't toasted — and ended up soggy as a result. An accompanying side of fries was your run-of-the-mill frozen potato wedge variety. But the beef patty itself was fascinating, loaded with chopped-up "stuff": green beans, basil, chili peppers. Burger purists beware: this came cooked well-done and had the chewy texture (and the heat) of a spicy Italian sausage patty — the kind of "burger" I could imagine getting off the grill at some Thai American family's backyard barbecue. By most normal measures, it was a terrible burger. Then again, I couldn't stop eating it.

Homeroom Racing Cafe
1305/1307 Park St., Alameda
510-865-6257
Hours: Wed-Sun, 11:30 a.m.-10:30 p.m.
Reservations available for large groups
Cash, all major credit cards

Sample Menu

Small Bowl of Rice Soup	$3.95
Sticky Rice, Fried Chicken, Papaya Salad Combo Plate	$9.95
Tom Yum Noodle Soup	$8.95
Thai-Style Basil Hamburger and Fries	$9.95
Thai Iced Coffee	$2.95

Finally, I'd be remiss not to mention how much fun the slot car racing is. Who knew? Five bucks bought me fifteen minutes with a sleek red-and-white number, which I lined up in the outside lane — the most difficult lane, I'd like to point out, which was the only reason I caused three three-car pile-ups. The group of eight-year-olds I was racing — regular customers, I gathered — were nice about it, though.

It turns out you can rent out the entire back room for parties, and kids (and grownups) can even eat their pad Thai trackside if they so choose.

As we headed home, the whir of tiny battery-powered engines still ringing in our ears, one of my dining companions observed that the food was good, but that it seemed like this restaurant was more about "the scene."

For once, that was actually a good thing, we agreed. ■

Luke.Tsai@EastBayExpress.com

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WHAT THE FORK

NOBLE CAFE BREAKS TIES WITH CHEF

Plus overdue bagels, new street-Korean in West Oakland, and an early farewell

By Jesse Hirsch

You know last week's story on Noble Cafe's brand new menu created by Make Westing chef Melinda Vaca? Please scrub it from your brain, because it's not happening.

I talked to Dimitri Thompson five days before the story ran and he raved about the exciting changes Vaca was bringing to Noble's food program. Two days later, he sent me a PDF of her proposed menu. Well, apparently everything went south within three short days, according to an eleventh-hour email from Thompson: "After long conversation with Melinda I decided not to go with her menu in near future. Please adjust the article!"

Thompson said he loves Vaca and her food but that a disagreement over pricing led them to part ways. He intends to find a new chef to create his menu.

In a phone conversation, Vaca said it was mostly an issue of time. As mentioned in the original story, she wants to train a chef who can prepare the new menu to her standards. Unfortunately, she said, she's too busy at Make Westing to perform that training right now. Vaca still hopes something can be worked out in the future. "It's a good menu, and I'd like to see it put to use."

Beauty's Bagel Shop Says: "Please Don't Forget Us"

The *Express* has been sounding the air horn on Beauty's Bagel Shop for almost a year, since shortly after Delfina chef Blake Joffe and his partner Amy Remsen started baking Montreal-style bagels at Addie's Pizza Pie in Berkeley. More recently, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Bon Appétit*, and *Sunset* have also given Beauty's shout-outs. There's just one problem: Beauty's shop still isn't open, and Remsen is afraid people are losing patience.

"I'm pretty sure we'll be open within a month," she said. "But we've been saying that for so long, it's probably hard to believe us now."

Beauty's moonlight operation at Addie's was supposed to be a short-term arrangement where they would bake enough bagels to supply Wise Sons and Saul's until they got their own storefront. But every step of the way has been unexpectedly time-consuming and laborious, from finding a suitable location and getting the right permits to securing enough funding.

Now they have a space — at 3838 Telegraph in Oakland (the former home of Sasio Plus) — and they have the permits, but they're still waiting for final loan approvals. Remsen worries that by the time they are operational, nobody will care about Beauty's anymore.

I told her not to worry. The Bay Area has suffered through many years without enough bagel options; we can wait a little while longer. For updates on Beauty's progress, check Facebook.com/BeautysBagelShop.

Fusebox Opening Next Week in West Oakland

In a striking West Oakland industrial property without a single restaurant or shop in sight, chef Sunhui Chang's new street-Korean experiment Fusebox (2311A Magnolia St., Oakland, 510-444-3100) is slated to open next week. Housed in a tiny space carved out from a former oxygen plant, Fusebox has preserved a stark industrial simplicity well suited for the neighborhood.

Korean-born Chang said he based the concept on the *soju bangs* (literally, rooms for drinking *soju*) of Korea, which he loves for their obscure industrial locales. For this particular corner of West Oakland, right near the Emeryville border, he thinks it will give neighborhood residents a cure for their cabin fever.

I stopped by for a preview meal last week and was intrigued by many of the offerings, including the pork-chili udon soup, the bacon-wrapped *mochi* with pickled mustard seeds, the cubes of house-made tofu crusted in rice flour, the spicy-sweet fried chicken, and the array of pickled things (shiitake mushrooms, sparkler radish, bok choy, etc.).

Chang uses well-sourced, organic ingredients, but he's keeping the menu mostly under ten bucks: "No elitism here," he said. He'll start with a lunch-only service, which he hopes will draw in neighborhood laborers (builders, cabinet makers, stoneworkers, East Bay MUD employees).

As summer approaches, Fusebox will expand to dinner hours. Chang also intends to expand the miniscule twenty-seat indoor space with an outdoor patio, replete with a soft-serve machine and grill.

Too Short

As you may have inferred when Luke Tsai introduced himself as the new *Express* food writer, I'm moving on. I've received a few emails in the past week, asking for salacious dirt on why I'm leaving so soon. Sorry, gossip-hounds, I don't have much to give.

Why am I leaving? Simply this: I live in San Francisco and was offered a critic's position at the *San Francisco Examiner*. As my friend Molly says, "A shorter commute is worth its lack of length in gold."

But truthfully, I can't imagine a better place than the *Express* to have cut my teeth as a critic. This paper has some of the sharpest minds in the Bay Area, and I was blessed to work with such an embarrassment of talent (however briefly).

As I'm sure this week's review will show, you're in good hands with Mr. Tsai. Make sure to read his stories each week. I know I will. ●

Jesse.Hirsch@EastBayExpress.com

This column is culled from our blog of the same name.

RESTAURANTS & CAFES

Thai Cuisine

Anchalee

1094 1056 Dwight Way, Berkeley, 510-848-4015. Maybe it's the leafy green shade on the walls or the Zen fountain's gentle gurgle, but you get the feeling of a soothing negative-ion blast upon entering this Thai eatery in the heart of what has become known as Berkeley's Left Bank. The menu is crowd-pleasing. *Samoon pak kord* (steamed radish cakes) and *popiah* (crispy vegetable rolls) are two plates of note, and the *pad Thai* steers clear of that glommed-together noodle effect. Lovers of fried banana should try Anchalee's version, served with a generous helping of coconut ice cream. $$

Andy and Cindy's Thai Cuisine

At the Downtown Berkeley Farmers' Market and Grand Lake Farmers' Market on Saturday, West Berkeley Farmers' Market on Tuesday, and Temescal Farmers' Market on Sunday. Call or see website for details, 510-830-9096. With an energy that makes you sweaty just watching, Andy Bunchuwelt and Cindy Yang show up at area farmers' markets to slam out plates of vegetarian Thai food fresh-tasting enough to belie its chafing-dish origins. Free-range chicken in coconut-milk curry has plenty of moist chew, while TVP-filled egg rolls retain a near-miraculous crunch. The sweetness of the tofu curry can seem heavy-handed, but fish steamed in a banana-leaf sheath has a definite sense of polish — just about the last thing you'd expect on a disposable plate. $

Bangkok Thai Cuisine

1498 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-6483. Bangkok Thai isn't fancy, just a reliable, casual, affordable Berkeley favorite. Standards such as the stir-fried asparagus and crispy basil chicken are consistently good, as are the green, red, and Panang curries. The specials menu veers into unfamiliar territory with a flashy grapefruit-prawn salad and a spiced-up green curry fried rice. $

Bua Luang

1166 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-527-8288. A little slot of a place, but far nicer than a proper hole in the wall, this Thai restaurant exudes an earnest honesty that gives diners the feeling they've been invited home for a meal. And, as happens at a home-cooked meal, surprising ingredients such as avocado and pumpkin tend to pop up. Curried salmon is a definite success. $

Burma Superstar

4721 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-652-2900. 1345 Park St., Alameda, 510-522-6200. Its trendiness means that you'll quite likely wait for a table. And once you get inside, this restaurant's cooly dark design — black bar, black ceiling, black-and-concrete floor — is all hard surfaces, with no softness to absorb sound, so sometimes you can hardly hear yourself talking. But Burma Superstar sells ravishingly lovely food: surprisingly wholesome, often delightfully startling ingredients in whopping two-could-share-one-entrée portions, flaunting hypnotic addictive flavors and bold textures that are revolutionarily unlike anything that most of us have ever tried before. $$

Cha Am

1543 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-9664. Express readers' frequent choice for Best Southeast Asian Restaurant, this upstairs nook has had its ups and downs both in terms of food and service. On good days its vegetarian *pad Thai* is abundant and sweet, while a seafood-rich menu offers lots of possibilities, such as curried prawns. A blend of fresh Thai herbs goes into every dish. $-$$

Chai Thai Noodle

545 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-832-2500. Thai House Express veterans Sangchai Vatanachai and Anthony Ninsyvong set up here on International Boulevard in 2006, serving a mix of dishes from central Thailand and farther north. *Kai moo* — braised pork leg with five spice and sweet soy — should find a place on every carnivore's table. Much of the rest of the menu is bright-tasting and easy to like, and above all accessible for non-Thais. The chicken *larb*, for instance, is a pile of perfumed ground meat that doesn't challenge, and while *chon pad poo* (Dungeness crab noodles) might not be something you'd encounter in Thailand, if it tastes good, who cares? $

Champa Garden

2102 8th Ave., Oakland, 510-238-8819. Tucked away in a residential neighborhood, Champa Garden's menu resembles a set of Russian nesting dolls. Hidden among its hundred plus Thai dishes — all the old familiars — are a few Lao and Vietnamese specialties, as well as one or two dishes from the Lue and Mien peoples. Go Lao, ordering things like the unique rice ball salad, *larb* (ground meat salad), and Lao and Lue noodle soups. For the specials board, the cooks also get creative with fish, tropical fruits, and curry pastes. $

Krung Thep

11225 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-232-9316. Tiny friendly Krung Thep makes a great alternative to the chain restaurants in the El Cerrito Plaza. Most of the charm comes from the owners, who know how to treat regular customers. The appetizers and salads often excel, as do the curries — but skip the dry roast meats. Don't end your meal without the sweet-salty sticky rice with mango. $-$$

Lao Thai Kitchen

1406 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-559-3476. Earl and Kham Daniel started up Lao Thai Kitchen as a retirement project. Some retirement. This seven-day-a-week place is the ne plus ultra of mom-and-pop shops, with Kham in the kitchen and Earl charming the pants off the customers. The Daniels mostly serve your basic neighborhood Thai restaurant standards, but look out for Lao dishes like the *larb*, papaya salad, and barbecued pork with a sauce that'll take your breath away. $

Pin Yoh

2072 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-8424. 2072 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-8424. Pin Yoh distinguishes itself among Berkley's many Thai restaurants with a keen knack for cooking fresh vegetables to such perfection that their freshness is the first thing you notice about every dish. Even humble carrots, cabbage, and broccoli shine. Vietnamese *pho* accompanies many classic Thai dishes, from satay to *tom kha* to Thai iced tea, in a stylishly green-lit, black-ceilinged space that even in daytime evokes the moody mien of a spacecraft doubling as a dance club. A separate 37-item vegetarian menu augments the standard flesh-filled menu, offering meat-free curries and intriguing rarities such as a house-special pumpkin curry and a cashew-based stir-fry. $

Ban Kanom Thai

3288 Pierce St., Richmond, 510-524-5459. At most Thai restaurants, non-Thai diners are pretty much treated to dishes that have been muffled or otherwise dumbed down, but at this takeout food shop in the Pacific East Mall, Bangkok-born owner Sakdinee Ekchit is cooking primarily for an Asian clientele, meaning that her heat-at-home curries, green papaya salad, five-spice pork hock, and sticky-rice sweets present flavors more vivid, funkier, less sugary, and spicier than you find with most American Thai food. Oh, and many of the ingredients Ekchit uses are organic, making Ban Kanom practically unique. $

Saiyoong Thai

3288 Pierce St., #D111, Richmond, 510-558-9131. On weekend days, the owner of this tiny market clears a few shelves, replacing the imported snacks with stacks of clear plastic containers. Many of the curries, dumplings, desserts, salads, and noodle dishes inside are made by local Thai restaurants, except you won't see any of those dishes on their menus. Saiyoong sells Thai snacks for Thai tastes, not American ones. The quality can be hit-or-miss, but the hits hit hard — with chile heat and pungency. $

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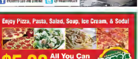
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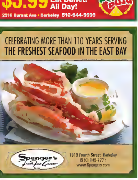
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RECENTLY REVIEWED

Wally's Cafe

3900 San Pablo Ave., Emeryville, 510-597-1403. Wally's Cafe is perfectly aligned to attract 90 percent of the East Bay's iPhone picture-snapping food blogosphere, with its obscure location tucked behind an Emeryville rendezvous-style dive bar, its free baklava and lentil soup with every order, and its sometimes-available secret menu prepared by Wally's Mexican wife. But the best reason to visit Wally's is simpler: solidly prepared, reasonably priced Lebanese and Greek cuisine, with a little American stuff thrown in for the barflies. $$

Freehouse

2700 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-647-2300. After Daryl Ross shut down struggling-yet-beloved Adagia, he decided to give the sophisticated farm-to-table spot a total overhaul. What emerged is Freehouse, a campus brewpub at the end of a row of frats. The menu still has whispers of its former greatness, and quality ingredients are clearly a priority to chef Kevin Kroger (Monk's Kettle), but much of the pub grub is flawed or just uninteresting. The menu is almost beside the point, though. A bar/restaurant this close to campus, dramatically housed in a former church, has a student fanbase practically built in. $$

Rotten City Pizza

6015 Hollis St., Emeryville, 510-655-2489. Emeryville's reigning pizza champ is a hybrid, merging the New York-style slice aspirations of Brooklyn-born Jonas Bernstein with the Cal-cuisine pedigree of Chef John Streit (Pizzaiolo, Pizzeria Delfina). The basics don't quite hold up, with the thin crust on the margherita not able to withstand the thick coating of sauce. But once Streit starts working his magic on the combos, look out. The Calabrian pizza is a can't miss, with a house-made Italian sausage (paprika, fennel, and Berkshire pork shoulder); Gaeta olives (striking, though milder than a Kalamata); potent Calabrian chilies; and a sprinkling of toasted fennel seeds. $$

B-Side BBQ

3303 San Pablo Ave., Oakland, 510-595-0227. B-Side is the newest venture from Brown Sugar Kitchen's perennially popular Tanya Holland, in the old Yardie Jerk space on San Pablo Avenue in West Oakland. Holland has no barbecue-specific experience, but her broad resume serves her well in carving out some new culinary territory. B-Side's brisket is exemplary, as are its sides and barbecue dishes, but the ribs never quite match up to expectations. Nothing is groundbreaking, but it's still a tasty addition to the area's slim offerings of quality barbecue. Meats come from Niman and other quality purveyors. $$

Brasa

1950 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-888-0735. In the same space formerly occupied by their popular restaurant eVe, chef-owners Christopher and Veronica Laramie now serve rotisserie chicken along with rice bowls, juicy hot sandwiches, and other street foods of Veronica's native Peru. Fueled by a range of richly assertive peppers, Peruvian cuisine has spent centuries soaking up the flavors of Spain, France, Asia, Africa, and indigenous peoples. Peruvian street food is messy, meaty, smoky, saucy, satisfying, and falsely familiar, like Grandma's cooking reconfigured by a drunken aunt or a crazy teenager: The French fries are inside the steak sandwich. Sides include salads and sweet-potato fries, but tofu inside a roll or atop white rice is the only vegetarian entrée. Can Niman Ranch beef hearts win your heart? Brasa is a fun, friendly, affordable place to find out. $

Caña

5701 Lake Park Ave., Oakland, 510-832-4515. Cuban food is all too rare in the Bay Area, and Caña Café does it well, serving up Cuban sandwiches, fried chicken, and empanadas with equal aplomb. But veteran chef Diego Salinas has bounced around at high-end fusion restaurants, and at Caña Parlor he's adding Latin and Asian-style techniques to the pan-Latin fare. The resulting combination, of the light and airy daytime café's authentic Cuban street food, and the nighttime parlor's fancy fusion, is an interesting dichotomy. Both are good, but Salinas' traditional street food is most consistently strong. $$

SaWadDee Thai Restaurant

12[illegible] San Pablo Ave., Richmond, 510-[illegible]. Kids will love the Thai-style tables, but their parents will appreciate its grilled meats, fragrant salads, and rich curries — the kind of fare that has made Thai cuisine the Bay Area's favorite comfort food. SaWadDee's [illegible] and hot tom yum is one of the best in the area, and its salty-sweet sticky rice with mango is the perfect finish for the meal. $-$$

SOM Bangkok Eatery

54[illegible] Ave., Oakland, 510-655-[illegible]. As its name suggests, SOM serves high-concept Thai cuisine for the high-cheekbone crowd. Luckily, the food is more affordable than you would infer from the chic room. Stick with the sautéed dishes and salads — the beef short ribs and vegetable dishes are great. Curries, however, tend toward the insipid. Finish off your meal with prime fusion desserts. $$

Thai Delight Cuisine

1700 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-0611. Organic Thai food? Only in Berkeley. Thai Delight's chef-owner has created a small organic menu — with slightly higher prices — to supplement her reasonably priced regular menu of familiar Thai entrées. The food tends toward the sugary, but it's fresh and well prepared, and the service is friendly and competent. A plus: The tables are spread far enough apart for you to hear your conversation, not everyone else's. $-$$

Thai Satay

1376 E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-351-2435. San Leandro's one and only Thai restaurant is tricked out to impress, with temple-style carvings and all the trappings of fine dining. Its food is equally attractive: brightly colored vegetables and soft meats presented in ornate ceramic dishes. Sweet coconut milk quenches the heat of the curries, and the barbecued meats skew more American than Thai, but the salads, stir-fried dishes, and interesting specials menu taste lively and bright. No one leaves without the FBI — fried banana with ice cream, that is. $-$$

Thep-Nooree

977 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-524-2700. Pretend you're dining Thai style at this clean, serene Albany restaurant by sinking into the cushion seats on the false platform, your feet dangling below the "low" tables. Admire the murals of bare-breasted bathing Thai goddesses while you dine on better-than-average Thai food. Especially good are the fried appetizers, salads, curries, and fish dishes. $$

Wat Mongkolratanaram

1911 Russell St., Berkeley, 510-849-3419. Every Sunday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., this Thai Buddhist temple serves brunch to the public. You'll find steam-table sautéed dishes and prepared spring rolls, but also made-to-order papaya salads, fried chicken with sticky rice, and a group of warm, funny temple members dishing out the food. $ ●

Price Key

Price codes assume diners will order a main course and beverage, share appetizers and desserts, and tip adequately. $ — up to $10 per person; $$ — $10-$25; $$$ — $25-$50; $$$$ — more than $50.

The Night Light took some of its inspiration from the maritime history of Jack London Square. [illegible]

LAST CALL

DELIGHT IS IN THE DETAILS

Your grandpa will love Jack London's newest bar. And that's a good thing.

By Ellen Cushing

It's 4:30 on a warm, still Monday afternoon and Doug Kinsey is talking toothpicks. Specifically, the new ones The Night Light just got in, which are thick and sturdy and exactly four and a half inches long. They don't even look like toothpicks, really, at least not for non-giants — they're more like tiny dowels or maybe some kind of instruments of torture. They are substantial in the hand and epic-looking in an olive and, quite frankly, the best toothpicks I've ever seen. They are immediately declared by everyone involved in the discussion to be leaps and bounds better than the old ones.

So things tend to go at The Night Light, which Kinsey recently opened with John Nackley near Jack London Square. No detail is overlooked here. The flowers in the bathrooms are fresh, the bar is mercifully be-purse-hooked, the furniture — brass-tacked and leathery — is custom made. The bare-filament lights hanging above the bar were salvaged from a 1940s sailboat, below them a pair of doors, nearly invisible against the wall, open to reveal a TV to be used only for special occasions (i.e. football games). There are asterisks on the drinks menu explaining the names of certain cocktails. This is Kinsey and Nackley's first bar on their own — they are collectively veterans of Radio, the Ruby Room, and Kitty's (RIP) — and the eagerness to do well, to put their name on a new place, is a delight to watch.

The Night Light
311 Broadway, Oakland
510-282-1413
Hours: Daily 4 p.m.-2 a.m.

In March, before The Night Light opened, I asked Nackley and McKinsey who they imagined the bar to be for, without skipping a beat Nackley said "old people" — which is sort of funny in its irreverence to standard stylish-bar wisdom, but which speaks to the premium Nackley and McKinsey have put on comfort (also perhaps to the supremely crochet proof setup, what with the purse hooks and flowers). The Night Light is trendy by virtue of its newness and its location and its $8 cocktails and the aforementioned bare filaments, but you get the sense that, even though very little happens by accident here, the trendiness may have. "We just kind of tried to emulate the bars we like ourselves," explained McKinsey. "The Fat Lady, Bar 355 — and we also took a lot of inspiration from our location, so the maritime history of Jack London Square and all the old brothels and bordellos that used to be here." The design there is all dark wood and quilted Queen Anne sofas and paintings of classic nudes; ornate-looking mirrors and velvet flocked wallpaper in floral golds, teals, and rubies lines the walls. There is very little natural light and, on some nights, Nackley and his friends play dominoes on one of the little coffee tables. All together the feeling is somewhere between the cabin of a very classy ship and the library of a very classy person and it's pretty great.

The Night Light is loudly and clearly a whiskey-drinking place, and the menu reflects that: lots of brown liquors and very little wheel reinventing. Cocktails tend toward the sweet-and-sour — not a fundamentally bad thing, just not my personal preference, though you have to appreciate a place that makes its own sour mix and squeezes its juice to order. Besides, the Old Smokey (Ardbeg single malt, maple syrup, Angostura bitters, served up, $10) is a true masterpiece of fusty heft and smoky Scotch goodness and hint-of-sweetness flavor. You can also never go wrong with bourbon on the rocks or a magical-toothpick-bedecked martini. It's almost better that way.

Just over a month in, the old-person prophecy hasn't quite been borne out: Although Kinsey claims they get more people older than fifty through the door than those between the ages of 21 and 25 on any given night, the customer base falls squarely in the late-twenties-to-mid-thirties range. But suffice it to say: if you ever need to take your grandpa out on the town, he'd probably love this place. It's hard not to. ●

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FOOD & WINE

CULINARY & WINE

Front 1/4 Beef Butchery Workshop With a demonstration of different butchering techniques used to produce the organic cuts. [illegible] Sun., Apr. 30, 1-4 p.m., $150. The Local Butcher Shop, 1600 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-6328. TheLocalButcherShop.com.

Livermore Valley Wine Country Trade Tasting With samples of winning wines from up to 20 wineries. RSVP [illegible] required. Visit website to see if you qualify for entry. Mon., Apr. 30, 2-4 p.m., free. Online reg. Fox Theater, 1807 Telegraph Ave. [illegible]

[illegible] Brewery With Half Moon Bay Brewing Company. Wed., May 2, 6 p.m. [illegible] 510-452-2337. [illegible]

[illegible] Feast: A Sustainable Restaurant Tour of Berkeley With food from several sustainable restaurants: Gather, Fine and [illegible] and a talk by [illegible]. Wed., May 2, 5:30-9 p.m., $75-$85. 510-204-0379. [illegible] Gather, 2200 Oxford St., Berkeley. 510-809-0400. [illegible]

Pop-up Fridays [illegible] serves a non-traditional [illegible] menu featuring a rotating seasonal, [illegible] and wine at participating [illegible]. Fridays, 12-9 p.m. Continues through May 25. [illegible] Marketplace, 5301 9th St., Oakland. [illegible]

[illegible] "Taste of Berkeley" Market With a tasting menu of seasonal, local plates, market-fresh cocktails, local wines, and live music. Mon., Apr. 30, 7:30-10:30 p.m., $35. [illegible] 2800 [illegible] Ave., Berkeley. 510-540-8850. [illegible]

[illegible] Food Thursdays With food [illegible] small [illegible] served in a [illegible] setting. Thursdays, $8-$14. 800-551-7298. Paragon Bar & Cafe, 41 Tunnel Rd., Berkeley. 510-549-8680. ParagonRestaurant.com.

"[illegible]" Livermore Pop-Up Night With Moroccan food prepared by chef [illegible]. Every other Thursday, 6-10 p.m. Guerilla Cafe, 1620 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-2233. GuerillaCafe.com.

Market Wine Tasting Saturdays, Sundays, 1-5 p.m. $5 or free w/ purchase. [illegible] Cellars, 2323 Fourth St., Berkeley. 415-800-7855. UrbanoCellars.com.

[illegible] Food, Eggs, and [illegible] Workshop Learn about the effects of [illegible] from Katie [illegible] Farming. Sat., Apr. 28, [illegible] p.m., free. 510-851-1742. [illegible] Farmers Market, Arlington Market Center Parking Lot, Oakland.

[illegible] Open House With the [illegible] releases, plus [illegible] including [illegible] and more. Sat., Apr. 28, 1-5 p.m., $48. 415-513-5803. [illegible] 2017. Eventbrite.com. [illegible] Wine Company, 2301 [illegible] St., Ste. 900, Alameda. 510-522-5700. [illegible]

FARMERS' MARKETS

[illegible] Produce Market With locally grown fruits and vegetables, plus locally [illegible]. Tuesdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. PCFMA.com. [illegible] Farmers' Market, Haight Ave. at Webster St., Alameda.

BABA Farm Foods Choice Community Produce Stand Farm Fresh Choice runs [illegible] in limited-resource neighborhoods. Tuesdays, 3:30-6:30 p.m., free. 510-843-1104. EcologyCenter.org. Bay Area Hispano [illegible] for Advancement, 1718 Eighth St., Berkeley. 510-325-3403, BAHIInc.com.

Bayfair Center [illegible] Market [illegible] supplied by local regional and specialty farmers. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. Bayfair Center, 15555 E. 14th St., San Leandro. 510-358-4000. ShopBayfair.com.

[illegible] Farm Fresh Choice Community Produce Stand Farm Fresh Choice runs [illegible] in limited-resource neighborhoods. Tuesdays, 3:30-6:30 p.m., free. 510-848-1704. EcologyCenter.org. Berkeley [illegible], 1255 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-845-3010. [illegible]

[illegible] Farm Fresh Choice Community [illegible] Stand Farm Fresh Choice runs [illegible] in limited-resource neighborhoods. Wednesdays, 3-6:30 p.m., free. 510-848-1704. EcologyCenter.org. Frances Albrier Community Center, San Pablo Park, 2800 Park St., Berkeley. 510-981-5858. [illegible]

[illegible] Farmers' Market With locally grown and prepared food, vegetables, bread [illegible] and more. Market WIC and EBT. Sundays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., free. 510-535-6929. Fruitvale Village, 3401 E. 12th St., at Fruitvale BART, Oakland. 510-534-8800. UnityCouncil.org.

Grand Lake Farmers' Market The weekly market [illegible] more than 70 produce, prepared foods, and arts and crafts vendors. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., free. 800-897-3276. [illegible] Splash Pad Park, Grand Ave. and Lake Park Ave., Oakland. 510-238-7275. [illegible]

Hayward City Hall Farmers' Market A local [illegible] market featuring locally grown and produced foods from more than 35 farmers and specialty food purveyors. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. 800-897-3276. Agricul-Sustainable.org. Hayward City Hall Plaza, 777 B St., Hayward. 510-583-4000. CI.Hayward.CA.Us.

Kaiser Permanente Hayward Shattuck Market With vendors selling locally grown California produce at the main [illegible] the hospital. Wednesdays, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., free. PCFMA.com. Kaiser Hayward, 27400 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward.

Kaiser Permanente Produce Farmers Market With vendors selling fresh, all-organic fruits and vegetables. Fridays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. PCFMA.com. Kaiser [illegible] 3801 Howe St., Oakland.

Kensington Farmers' Market With a nursery, fresh flowers, an organic [illegible], and [illegible], fresh wild fish, fruits and vegetables, nuts, butters, [illegible], local pasta and seasonal surprises. The market also [illegible] live music and [illegible]. Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. 510-841-4661. KensingtonFarmersMarket.org. [illegible] Circle, at the Colusa Circle, Kensington.

Laurel Market Farmers' Market With certified organic produce from 50 organic farms and a youth-led prepared food [illegible] called the Purple Lawn Cafe. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. 510-482-1588. FoodCommunityCulture.org. Laurel Grand Farmers' Market, 4172 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland.

Montclair Village Farmers' Market Featuring organic produce and [illegible] baked [illegible]. Free parking in Village garage at the top of La Salle Avenue. Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. MontclairVillage.com/farmers_market.html. Downtown Montclair Village, LaSalle and Moraga Aves., Oakland.

North Berkeley Farmers' Market With [illegible] specialty foods, all-organic produce and more for sale, along with special programs and events. WIC and EBT accepted. Thursdays, 3-7 p.m., free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. Shattuck Ave. at Rose St., Berkeley.

North Produce Arlington Produce Market Farmers' Market With produce and other products sold by more than ten [illegible], including Frame Farms, Anthony Collins Collective and more. [illegible] product [illegible]. Accepts WIC and EBT. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., free. [illegible] Produce.org. [illegible] Farmers Market, Arlington Market Center Parking Lot, Oakland.

North Produce [illegible] Hospital Farmers' Market EBT and WIC okay. Tuesdays, 2-7 p.m., free. 510-250-7201. [illegible] Produce.org. Children's Hospital & Research Center Oakland, 747 52nd St., Oakland.

Old Oakland Farmers' Market [illegible] with [illegible] of samples. Fridays, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Old Oakland Farmers Market, 9th St. between Broadway and Clay St., Oakland. [illegible] market [illegible]

Pacific Coast Jack London Square Farmers' Market With seasonal produce, greens, nuts, freshly baked bread products, cut flowers, specialty foods, yoga classes, live music, and arts and crafts for kids. Sundays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., free. PCFMA.com. Jack London Square, 99 Broadway, Oakland.

Richmond Farmers' Market With fresh, locally grown fruit, live [illegible], flowers, eggs, and other produce. WIC and SNAP. Tuesdays, Fridays, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., free. [illegible] Farmers' Market, 24th St. and Barrett Ave., Richmond.

Saturday Berkeley Farmers' Market With fresh and organic produce, [illegible], specialty foods, and more for sale, plus [illegible] programs and [illegible]. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. MLK Civic Center Park, 2151 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley. 510-981-7150. Ci.Berkeley.Ca.Us/ContentDisplay.aspx?id=12708.

Temescal Farmers' Market California certified farmers offer seasonal [illegible] dried fruits and nuts, fresh ranch eggs, baked goods, locally caught fish, [illegible] flowers, and more. Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. 510-745-7100. DMV Parking Lot, 5300 Claremont Ave., Oakland.

Tuesday Berkeley Produce Market Fresh and organic produce, breads, specialty foods, and more for sale, plus special events. Tuesdays, 2-6:30 p.m., free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. Derby St., [illegible] Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley.

Youth-Led Farm Stand The fresh farm stand, in the heart of the Foothill Square neighborhood, features seasonal produce from regional farmers and select urban produce along with bulk dry goods and nutrition-related products. At 10700 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. Tuesdays, 3-6 p.m., free. FoodCommunityCulture.org. ●

PICK

Dumpling Wars

Tour the world's delicious fillings tucked into wrappers as Kearny Street Workshop presents the first-ever Dumpling Wars at the Oakland Asian Cultural Center (388 9th St., Oakland) on Thursday, Apr. 26. The dumpling-making contest with an international flavor allows attendees to sample offerings from seven competing teams of amateur chefs in a smorgasbord setting augmented by local treats and live music. May the best stuffing win. 6 p.m., $20-$25. KearnyStreet.org. — *Anneli Rufus*

MOVIES

CALL OF THE WILD

What's scarier: a man-eating beast (*The Hunter*) or a drug-dealing relative (*Natural Selection*)?

By Kelly Vance

In *The Hunter*, Willem Dafoe plays a mercenary tracking a rare Tasmanian tiger.

A mercenary named Martin David (Willem Dafoe) is sent by a mysterious international corporation to the backwoods of Tasmania to kill and harvest the organs of the extremely rare Tasmanian tiger. That's the framework of director Daniel Nettheim's satisfying outdoor adventure *The Hunter* — an environmentalist's nightmare rigged out as a primal contest of wills.

As we go deeper into the story, we fail to learn much more about the "tiger" — a doglike carnivorous marsupial with an eerie striped back and tail — other than that there is only one left in the entire world, and that Red Leaf, the military biotech corp funding the hunt, wants to get its hands on the unique toxin the tiger uses to paralyze its prey. Martin has been instructed to shoot the animal and bring back bio-samples of its blood, hair, etc. So a shadowy military company wants to kill off the last of a species in order to learn *how* to efficiently kill off more human beings. Sounds perfectly logical.

The prey is pretty much a MacGuffin, something for the hunter to occupy himself with as we get to know him better. Martin flies into Hobart, capital of the Australian island of Tasmania, posing as a scientist. The hunt is being kept secret, and Martin communicates with his employer via laptop. In his backpack is a high-tech, lightweight sniper rifle. One of the obstacles Martin faces, besides the general surliness of the local good-old boys, the ruggedness of the terrain, and the implied viciousness of the tiger itself, is that he has to compete with rival hunters. Red Leaf can't wait for the results and thinks nothing of pitting killers against each other in a race for the prize. Martin is in a nasty situation.

Dafoe, defiantly lean and wiry at age 56, is the ideal actor for this sort of Manichean struggle of a lone man against the dog-eat-dog world. His filmography is studded with roles like Martin David's, in which the star of *Platoon*, *The Last Temptation of Christ*, *Spider-Man*, and *Antichrist* can get out in the bush, setting traps, skinning wallabies, and wrestling with the duality of human nature at the same time that he's ducking gunshots. Dafoe has one of the finest "implacable" faces in the business. When he's preoccupied by something, better stay out of his way.

The Hunter

Directed by Daniel Nettheim. With Willem Dafoe and Sam Neill. Opens Friday.

Natural Selection

Written and directed by Robbie Pickering. With Rache

Martin's slowly unfolding tale is directed by the Australian Nettheim from a screenplay by Alice Addison and Wain Fimeri, adapted from a novel by Julia Leigh. It leads him down a menacing trail peopled by characters who are not what they seem. Jack Mindy, the Tasmanian guide hired by Red Leaf to assist Martin (played by Sam Neill, Dafoe's costar in 1996's *Victory*), has an untrustworthy air about him. Martin's host family on the island, the Armstrongs, is involved in the strife between loggers and "greenies" (enviros). The father went missing after a trip to the hills, his despondent wife Lucy (Frances O'Connor) has withdrawn into drugs, and only their two neglected kids, particularly the bright, inquisitive daughter Sass (Morgana Davies), interact with Martin with anything resembling real warmth. There's danger everywhere he turns.

The Tasmanian scenery is magnificent, shot on location in Mount Wellington, the Central Plateau, and Florentine Valley. Martin gets snowed on and suffers the same sorts of mishaps seen onscreen in such wilderness actioners as *The Grey*, *Hanna*, *Rare Exports*, *The Canyon*, *The Way Back*, and *Into the Wild*. We're in the middle of a field-and-stream boom. As usual in this sort of scenario, Martin's fellow humans are much more worrisome than the wildlife. The only complaint is that the filmmakers don't exactly know what to do with Martin once they've got him in the boondocks surrounded by predators. That usually indicates a major failing in a movie, and it does slow things down when most adventures would speed up. But Dafoe, the thinking person's survivalist, casts his spell on the action. We end up keeping our eyes on him instead of on the perils popping up everywhere, and he brings the story through all by himself.

The Hunter is produced by the same team that made 2010's superlative Melbourne crime yarn *Animal Kingdom*. The spectacular Oz settings, fleshed out by the dependable presence of Dafoe and Neill and a cast of sober heavies, go a long way toward making up for the writing problems. Think of it as a popcorn movie topped with Vegemite.

Rachael Harris is a frequently bland-haired, often bespectacled actress who has made a living primarily on television doing one-note character parts on such shows as *Desperate Housewives*, *Reno 911!* and *Funny or Die Presents*. Occasionally she pops up in movie roles, like Ed Helms' nagging wife in *The Hangover*.

Harris should make more movies — especially if they're anything like *Natural Selection*. In writer-director Robbie Pickering's entertaining piece of Middle American marginalia, Harris plays Linda White, a perplexed Christian housewife from Texas whose biggest problem is her randy husband of 25 years, Abe (John Diehl). The couple is childless, and Linda assumes she can't conceive. Abe craves sex, Linda denies him the favor (that's for procreation only), and when he suffers a stroke — pun probably intended — while masturbating into a paper cup at a sperm clinic, she realizes there's a big disconnect.

Things come to a head when Abe, on the critical list, requests a meeting with one of his numerous biological offspring. Off to Tampa goes Linda, and discovers a loser named Raymond (Matt O'Leary), a white-trash drug dealer wanted by the police. From there on it's a road trip, usually one of the most wearisome plot devices in existence. We expect Linda and Raymond to reach some sort of rapprochement en route, and that happens — but the way it happens is what makes *Natural Selection* worth the time.

Classic-Hollywood fans will be startled to note that Harris has the same vocal rhythms and timbre as 1930s-1940s screwball comedienne Jean Arthur. The 2011 American South, however, contains no traces of Frank Capra. Popular imagination used to believe that there was something romantic about going on the road. This movie demonstrates that it's a pretty rough place out there in Flyover Land. Harris and O'Leary are up to the challenge, and *Natural Selection* is a pleasant surprise. ■

Kelly.Vance@EastBayExpress.com

MOVIES & THEATERS

To learn where a movie is playing, go to EastBayExpress.com or scan the QR code. Capsule reviews are written by J.R. Jones (J.J.), Ben Sachs (B.S.), and Kelly Vance (K.V.). For a schedule of repertory films, see One-Night Stands at the end of these listings. Please send info fourteen days before event date to Ellen.Cushing@EastBayExpress.com.

OPENING

The Five-Year Engagement Judd Apatow-produced romantic comedy about a young couple in the midst of, you guessed it, a five-year engagement. Written by Nicholas Stoller, Jason Segel; starring Segel, Emily Blunt. [illegible]

The Hunter See this week's review. [101 min.] [K.V.]

Natural Selection See this week's review. [90 min.] [K.V.]

The Pirates! Band of Misfits The inept "Pirate Captain" (voice of Hugh Grant) is unsuccessful at marauding, so he and his crew get [illegible] in a silly plot involving his pet dodo bird, Charles Darwin (David Tennant), and Queen Victoria (Imelda Staunton), in order to qualify for the Pirate of the Year award. [illegible] with snappy dialogue [illegible] the Aardman's usual ultra-detailed [illegible] They just are the world's [illegible] animation studios, that's the only way to [illegible] hilarious and wonderful. [illegible] Directed by Peter Lord from a screenplay by [illegible] Selection with Sebastiani. [97 min.] [K.V.]

The Raven Mystery-thriller about a serial killer committing crimes based on the works of Edgar Allan Poe and the [illegible] who teams up with Poe [illegible] Directed by James McTeigue, written by [illegible] and Hannah Shakespeare, starring John Cusack, Alice Eve, [illegible] and Luke Evans. [111 min.]

Safe [illegible] the Russian mob, a Chinese [illegible] kidnapped young girl. Written and Directed by Boaz Yakin and starring Jason Statham.

ONGOING

[illegible] From the very first scene, [illegible] [illegible]

herself. Her young son, completely estranged [illegible] [illegible] a charter member of the Dogme 95 film movement [illegible] [97 min.] [K.V.]

Attenberg The face of [illegible] Playing Marina, a [illegible] young woman tending to her ailing father (Vangelis Mourikis) in a lonely [illegible] port town [illegible] Greek tragedy [illegible] Marina [illegible] engineer (Yorgos Lanthimos). [illegible] Written and Directed by Tsangari. [97 min.] [K.V.]

Bully Well-meaning but public documentary [illegible] America's [illegible] The message [illegible]

all the picked-on kids are lower-middle-class [illegible] Lee Hirsch's film was initially released unrated [illegible] the MPAA [illegible] to slap an "R" on it for language [illegible]

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[illegible] country hours every day. (94 min.) (K.V.)

The Cabin in the Woods Sort of a postmodern Scooby-Doo, this [illegible] flick by Buffy the Vampire Slayer collaborators Joss Whedon and Drew Goddard [illegible] a [illegible] of the [illegible] hurled by [illegible] of the [illegible], and [illegible] of two [illegible] technicians [illegible], Bradley Whitford [illegible] the slaughter from a NASA-type [illegible] center. [illegible] (95 min.) (J.J.)

Casa de Mi Padre Will Ferrell and his longtime [illegible], Adam McKay (Anchorman, Talladega Nights) go [illegible] for this [illegible] spaghetti [illegible] which is spoken in Spanish and subtitled. The [illegible] Diego Luna and Gael García Bernal, of Y Tu Mamá También (2001) as rival drug dealers, which might seem cool if you can forget the real-life [illegible] of the Mexican drug trade. [illegible] and [illegible] McKay's "Funny or Die" [illegible] the [illegible] a big-screen [illegible] to the genre, [illegible] Peckinpah-style [illegible] of [illegible] in the [illegible] of production [illegible] as scored. (84 min.) (J.J.)

Chronicle Sci-fi thriller about a group of high-schoolers who are suddenly [illegible] with [illegible] powers. Directed by Josh Trank; written by Trank and Max Landis; starring Dane DeHaan, Michael B. Jordan, Michael Kelly, and Alex Russell. (83 min.)

Coriolanus Ralph Fiennes winningly [illegible] his own career as an actor-director with this thrilling [illegible] of the Shakespeare tragedy, now imagined as a contemporary [illegible] of civil unrest, martial law, [illegible], and [illegible] in a [illegible] with [illegible] and a full [illegible] of [illegible] performances. [illegible] Vanessa Redgrave, [illegible] Gerard Butler [illegible] but [illegible] Fiennes [illegible] Brian Cox [illegible] Serbia, Montenegro, and the UK, as with [illegible] screenplay adaptation by John Logan (Hugo, Rango). (122 min.) (K.V.)

Damsels in Distress Writer-director Whit Stillman returns to the screen after a thirteen-year absence and finds the world much changed. Unfortunately for this [illegible] of the wonderful Metropolitan and The Last Days of Disco, he's still using that [illegible] history of a tight clique of [illegible] the [illegible] Greta Gerwig as [illegible] and [illegible]? [illegible] They're a row of [illegible], [illegible] Analeigh Tipton, Carrie MacLemore, and Megalyn Echikunwoke. (99 min.) (K.V.)

The Deep Blue Sea As is [illegible] Terence Davies [illegible] of nostalgic, [illegible] The Neon Bible, [illegible] Voices, Still Lives [illegible] visual splendor [illegible] in this adaptation of playwright Terence Rattigan's soapy tale of a young [illegible] (Rachel Weisz) [illegible] in post-WWII London, [illegible] the [illegible] judge (Simon Russell Beale) and an [illegible] RAF pilot (Tom Hiddleston) [illegible] sympathies. (98 min.) (K.V.)

Dr. Seuss' The Lorax [illegible] update of Theodor "Dr. Seuss" Geisel's [illegible] and [illegible] the [illegible] Danny DeVito [illegible] Zac Efron as Ted the kid. (94 min.) (K.V.)

Footnote Israel entered this 2011 [illegible] in the Academy Awards, and one might feel the world's [illegible] Hebrew University [illegible] Joseph Cedar's understanding of the many levels of [illegible] an extraordinary scene in a tiny [illegible] in Hebrew with subtitles. (103 min.) (K.V.)

Friends with Kids A funny thing happened with this seemingly lightweight [illegible] about three [illegible] New York City [illegible]. It grows before our eyes into something deeper and more satisfying than a [illegible]. That's a [illegible] writer-director Jennifer Westfeldt (Kissing Jessica Stein), in the role of a [illegible] Julie, who arranges to have a baby with her [illegible] (Adam Scott [illegible]) without [illegible] and to split child-rearing duties. [illegible] Jon Hamm, Kristen Wiig, Chris O'Dowd, Maya Rudolph, and [illegible] are given plenty of room to [illegible] plus intelligent dialogue. [illegible] (100 min.) (K.V.)

Gone Thriller about a [illegible] whose [illegible] goes missing. Directed by Heitor Dhalia, written by Allison Burnett, starring Amanda Seyfried, [illegible] Carpenter, and Wes Bentley. (94 min.)

The Hunger Games [illegible] from the [illegible] young-adult novel, this sci-fi fantasy [illegible] gladiators fighting each other [illegible] part of a televised spectacle [illegible]. Director Gary Ross (Pleasantville) [illegible] the elaborate [illegible] and [illegible] high-concept blockbusters, and cinematographer Tom Stern, [illegible] with Clint Eastwood, [illegible] and [illegible] of hand-to-hand combat [illegible] with a [illegible] camera. (142 min.) (S.S.)

The Island President Documentary following then-[illegible] of the Maldives with [illegible] to fight an even bigger [illegible] climate change, which threatens to put his country [illegible] the world [illegible] by Jon Shenk. (101 min.)

Jeff, Who Lives at Home Jason Segel plays the title [illegible], a good-hearted [illegible] with [illegible] mystical connections in [illegible]. Ed Helms (The Hangover) is his selfish and [illegible] brother, Judy Greer the [illegible] wife, and Susan Sarandon the men's [illegible] mother. There are some funny [illegible] with [illegible] (83 min.) (J.J.)

Jiro Dreams of Sushi Most of us [illegible] Jiro Ono [illegible] restaurant in a Tokyo subway [illegible] documentary-maker David Gelb's [illegible] of the 85-year-old master [illegible] as we watch him [illegible] (81 min.) (K.V.)

The Lady [illegible] Burmese democracy figurehead Aung San Suu Kyi gives [illegible] Michelle Yeoh a chance to display her [illegible]

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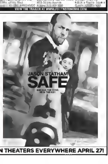

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[illegible] (127 min.) (R.V.)

Lockout [illegible] (95 min.) (R.V.)

The Lucky One [illegible] (101 min.)

Marley [illegible] (145 min.) (R.V.)

Mirror Mirror [illegible]

Monsieur Lazhar [illegible] (94 min.) (R.V.)

Pina 3D [illegible] (106 min.) (R.V.)

Project X [illegible] (88 min.)

The Raid: Redemption [illegible] (100 min.) (R.V.)

Salmon Fishing in the Yemen [illegible]

[illegible] (116 min.) (R.V.)

The Secret World of Arrietty [illegible] (94 min.) (R.V.)

A Separation [illegible] (123 min.) (R.V.)

Surviving Progress [illegible] (86 min.) (R.V.)

This Means War [illegible] (98 min.)

The Three Stooges [illegible] (92 min.)

Titanic 3D [illegible] (195 min.) (R.V.)

We Have a Pope [illegible] (102 min.) (R.V.)

The Woman in Black [illegible] (95 min.) (R.V.)

Wrath of the Titans [illegible]

[illegible] (98 min.) (R.V.)

ONE NIGHT STANDS

THURSDAY, APRIL 26

[illegible] the Path to Beyond (77 min., 2011). San Francisco International Film Festival (Pacific Film Archive, Berkeley, 6:30).

[illegible] (98 min., 2011). San Francisco International Film Festival (PFA, 8:40).

[illegible] (103 min., 2012). [illegible] Berkeley.

[illegible] (78 min., 2011). [illegible] Berkeley, 7:30.

FRIDAY, APRIL 27

[illegible] (90 min., 2011). San Francisco International Film Festival (PFA, 6:30).

Old Dog (86 min., 2011). With an appearance by [illegible]. San Francisco International Film Festival (PFA, 8:50).

1960s Film Series. [illegible] 1960s-era [illegible] California. [illegible] 8:30.

[illegible] (2012). With an [illegible] Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, Berkeley, 7:30.

SATURDAY, APRIL 28

[illegible] (113 min., 2011). With an appearance by director [illegible]. With an appearance by [illegible]. San Francisco International Film Festival (PFA, noon).

[illegible] (97 min., 2011). San Francisco International Film Festival (PFA, 8:50).

Smugglers' Songs (97 min., 2011). San Francisco International Film Festival (PFA, 6:30).

Back to Stay (93 min., 2011). San Francisco International Film Festival (PFA, 8:50).

[illegible] (79 min., 2011). [illegible] 7:00.

SUNDAY, APRIL 29

Step Up to the Plate (90 min., 2011). With an appearance by director Paul Lacoste. San Francisco International Film Festival (PFA, 1:30).

A Secret World (93 min., 2012). With an appearance by director [illegible] and producer [illegible] in person. San Francisco International Film Festival (PFA, 3:20).

[illegible] (100 min., 2011). With director [illegible] and producer [illegible] in person. San Francisco International Film Festival (PFA, 5:40).

[illegible] (108 min., 2011). San Francisco International Film Festival (PFA, 8:15).

[illegible] (101 min., 1957). In Italian with English subtitles. Berkeley Underground Film Society (750 Gilman St., Berkeley).

MONDAY, APRIL 30

Pierre Rissient: Man of Cinema (110 min., 2007). With an appearance by [illegible]. San Francisco International Film Festival (PFA, 6:30).

[illegible] (104 min., 2011). With an appearance by director [illegible] San Francisco International Film Festival (PFA, 8:50).

TUESDAY, MAY 1

[illegible] (96 min., 2011). With an appearance by director [illegible]. San Francisco International Film Festival (PFA, 6:30).

OK, Enough, Goodbye (93 min., 2010). With an appearance by [illegible]. San Francisco International Film Festival (PFA, 8:50).

WEDNESDAY, MAY 2

Last Winter (103 min., 2011). San Francisco International Film Festival (PFA, 6:30).

[illegible] (90 min., 2011). San Francisco International Film Festival (PFA, 8:50).

[illegible] (90 min., 2011). [illegible] 7:30.

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FRI-SAT-SUN 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:15 10:15
MON-TUE 4:00, 6:00 8:15, 10:15
WED-THUR: 4:00 8:15 10:15

THE LUCKY ONE (PG13)
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MUSIC

METAL'S TRUE OUTSIDERS

Oakland's Dimesland doesn't fit into any metal scene — and that's saying a lot.

By Kathleen Richards

Even by metal's standards, Dimesland is kind of a weird band. That's worth repeating. The Bay Area is home to all manner of obscure black metal bedroom outfits and grimy crust bands, and yet this Oakland quartet might be considered a bit on the fringe. It's partially the music, evidenced on its debut EP, *Creepmoon*, which retains the aggressive and loud foundation of metal but also takes every opportunity to keep things unexpected, with starts and stops, movements and jumps, unusual rhythms, varied sonic textures, otherworldly effects, and all sorts of riffs skewing, colliding, and nose diving into waves of dissonant noise and then surfacing back for air.

But it's also the fact that nothing about Dimesland adheres to genre norms, from the name of the band to its album artwork to its founding members. Brothers and guitarists Nolan and Drew Cook (the former taller, older, eloquent; the other quieter and slighter of build) don't look or talk like your typical metalheads. They grew up all over the country but spent a decent chunk of time in Virginia, as revealed by Nolan's laid-back drawl. Since 1998, Nolan has worked as a touring and recording guitarist for the experimental collective The Residents, which in itself tells you a lot about where Dimesland is coming from. One gets the sense that all their lives, the Cook brothers have been outsiders. And even living in the mostly open-minded Bay Area for the past eighteen years, their status hasn't changed much. Nor would they like it to. "We like departing from the expected parts of metal," Nolan said.

But that's not to paint them as outcasts. Perhaps their attraction to the offbeat was somehow a residual effect of dealing with constant displacement growing up, something that bonded them but also provided a form of escape. The brothers (there's a third who lives in Los Angeles) started in Texas, then hopped around the Midwest and up and down the East Coast, and finally settled in northern Virginia. Music was a constant. "It started out with Sabbath, Zeppelin," Nolan recalled. "That was a huge influence and the first influence, but then we started finding outsider stuff — [Captain] Beefheart and [illegible] and what have you — so there was a double path always. We were interested in metal and hard rock but also in stranger stuff."

Weekends were spent at the local record store, where vinyl was cheap and plentiful. They'd bring home stacks of records — including ones they didn't know anything about — for less than twenty bucks, which exposed them to all kinds of music. The local free-form radio station was another prized source of new sounds.

As teenagers, Nolan and Drew both picked up the guitar. They played in separate bands but also together on the side. After graduating from high school and

Nothing about Dimesland adheres to genre norms.

moving to Richmond, Virginia, they co-wrote an album, playing all the instruments themselves under the moniker Land of Thin Dunes. They described it as "experimental," "really obtuse, angular," and "almost a little cartoony." Even though it was never officially released, it caught the ears of *Guitar Player* magazine and Neva Chonin, who picked it as her demo tape of the week for the *San Francisco Bay Guardian*.

That was fitting, because the Bay Area had long held appeal to the Cook brothers. Drew said he had "always been enamored" with the area. Nolan explained the decision to move more bluntly: "to escape the horrible town we were living in." So in 1994 they packed all their belongings — including a dog and a rabbit — into a truck and never looked back.

Once in town, the brothers put together a live band, "doing a louder version of the weirder stuff we wrote in Richmond," Nolan said. Members came and went, a record was released and went nowhere, and then things fizzled out. Then Drew moved to Los Angeles and Nolan started playing with The Residents.

The Residents gig was the result of a bit of serendipity. Nolan happened to give his friend, who worked at The Residents' boutique record label, an "oddball" cassette that he and Drew made. When the friend heard that the collective was looking for a guitarist to play a Halloween show at the Fillmore, she gave them their cassette. Apparently it was a successful show, because he's been playing with them ever since. "Yeah, I did not see that coming," said Nolan, who described himself as a "huge fan" of theirs. "It's been a wonderful experience."

Touring with The Residents involves a fairly intense time commitment — Nolan said they go out every couple years and the most recent tour lasted a year and a half. But during one lull several years ago, Nolan and Drew (who had since moved back) decided to re-form their band. "We decided, let's go back to our first love, which was metal stuff, but then incorporate our other influences into it so it didn't come out as a trademark metal sound. More like just using the tools, the volume and the aggression of metal but kind of infusing other kinds of musical ideas in there. We figured, why write something that you could hear a multitude of other groups play?"

It took a while for the project to solidify. The initial lineup didn't pan out, and finding new members took a while. In the meantime, they recorded the *Creepmoon* EP (at Lucky Cat Recording in San Francisco with Kurt Schlegel) with a temporary bassist who provided the vocals, and a drummer. Eventually, through friends, they found drummer Harland Burkhart and bassist Greg Bruce, who's now Dimesland's primary vocalist. In addition to being the two guitarists in the band, the Cook brothers are also the main songwriters and lyricists, but they say it's a collaborative process.

"This kinda is the lineup we've been waiting for," said Nolan. "They're great guys, super talented, and we all get along." (Actually, they get along so well that three-fourths of Dimesland sans Nolan have been playing in the melodic black metal band Wild Hunt, which releases its debut album May 1 on Kemado Records.)

As is all too common in the recording process, a decent chunk of time has accumulated between the writing of the material and the actual release date, so at this point Dimesland has established not only a new lineup but also an evolving sound. It's safe to say the band is poised to move forward again. Nolan says they're almost finished writing a new record, which like *Creepmoon* will be released by Vendlus Records, hopefully later this year.

"Some of it is quite different," Nolan said about the new material. "More dissonance, more experimental. We're always trying new stuff. We're really excited about it."

Show Details

At Eli's Mile High Club (3629 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland) on Saturday, May 12. ElisMileHigh.com. And at Hemlock Tavern (1131 Polk St., San Francisco) on Sunday, May 20. 6 p.m., $7. HemlockTavern.com

Granted, experimentalism in metal has become very popular lately. Across the board, a lot of bands are trying new things, from underground black-metal noise bands like Portal to mainstream prog metal groups like Mastodon. In Dimesland's case, it appears to be the result of a lifetime of listening to a wide variety of music, as well as absorbing influences from film and art. The Cook brothers cited the works of Polish composer Krzysztof Penderecki and filmmakers Akira Kurosawa (*Seven Samurai*, *Yojimbo*) and Marc Caro (*City of Lost Children*, *Delicatessen*) as inspiration.

Like the works of those artists, Dimesland's music can be transcendent. "Trophy Wives Under the Influence" sounds like a ride on an intergalactic thrash metal rollercoaster; dissonance and unusual timing make "Reviev" an ever-expanding sonic kaleidoscope. Clocking in at less than eighteen minutes, *Creepmoon* is brief but to-the-point. This is the expression of musicians who appear to have no creative limitations.

"The good thing about this is that there's never guidelines," said Drew. "The palette is huge that we made for ourselves. And it just allows us to keep going forward, trying things we haven't tried yet." ●

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Gibson

WRIT IN SILIAN RAIL

A vocal-less indie duo finds its (somewhat amorphous) niche

By Rachel Swan

Silian Rail releases its third full-length this month.

Six years of performing has been just enough to earn Oakland duo Silian Rail a modicum of local renown, even if guitarist Robin Landy and drummer Eric Kuhn are still playing the kinds of shows that request a bottle of wine as the price of admission. (So said one of the flyers on the band's studio wall, for an event at a small art gallery.) It has also left them with a three-LP discography and a sprawling oeuvre — "sprawling" in the sense that it's voluminous, and that each individual song seems to unspool in every direction.

Such ponderousness means the band has more in common with noisy improvised art rock than with its peers in the indie scene. It also shows that as a general rule, Landy and Kuhn privilege inventiveness over accessibility. Roughly 90 percent of their music is purely instrumental — the only exceptions are a few guest vocals on the forthcoming EP *every/one* and a spoken word poem called "I Remember Bernadette," which appeared on the band's 2011 acoustic EP. (It was penned by their friend Andrew Mary, who plays bass for B. Hamilton.) For the most part, Silian Rail eschews vocal parts for fear of "telling listeners what to feel," as Landy put it. She said that while the absence of a human voice might seem conspicuous to everyone else, she and Kuhn almost never think about it.

That's not the only thing that separates Silian Rail from traditional rock acts. In fact, the band seems to have no pop pretensions whatsoever. Its songs don't have hooks, the rhythms shift constantly, and the chords often sound smudged. Kuhn describes each tune as a patched together sequence of "loopy, long-phrased parts," and admits that he and Landy sometimes have a different idea of where it begins and ends.

With all that said, there's a refreshing quality to Silian Rail. This month it releases its latest project, a full-length album called *each/other* in concert with the *every/one*, and both works stand out in a scene known for taking liberties. Landy and Kuhn are messy refuseniks after all, and their music betrays the intricacy of their compositional process. It's not cleaned up or plotted out; there's no transcription on staff paper or scribbling in notepads, and it's hard to say whether the musicians even think about "form" until they have to memorize a set list. In Oakland, though, they're winning respect from a fairly broad audience. Silian Rail might, in fact, be exemplary of the kind of crossover band that can thrive in this environment, where "crossover" means something that's rather outré but retains a poetic patina.

Raised in the same town in North Carolina, the two musicians attended middle school together. Kuhn played in power-chord-oriented garage bands that devoted most of their energy to covering Bikini Kill. Landy sat in on his practices and swooned. They parted ways at age thirteen and reunited about six years ago when Landy ran into a mutual childhood friend while searching for apartments in the East Bay. It turned out Kuhn had moved here, too. The two hit it off again, realized they both played music, and started jamming. They formed Silian Rail shortly thereafter and named their band for the font used on Patrick Bateman's business card in the movie *American Psycho*. It's a slightly obscure reference and a name that nobody ever remembers, which suits the band perfectly.

Originally, Landy and Kuhn composed separately, then sutured the parts together. Their styles differed noticeably: She's self-taught and relies on intuition, plays open-string guitar, and often voices chords in unorthodox ways. He took piano lessons as a kid and studied music for two semesters at UC Santa Cruz. He describes songs in technical terms, citing the point where a 6/4 meter becomes 6/8, or the chords shift from major to minor. She tends to think in phrases rather than themes or time signatures, which perplexed him at first. Then he got used to it. Then he embraced it, and unevenness became part of the band's signature. "There's a lot of push and pull," Kuhn said, explaining why the song structures are often hard to follow.

Over time, the two developed a writing process that was much more improvisational and collaborative. If anything, it's been salutary for their music. Landy continues to write murky, intertwined melodies on her Rickenbacker guitar, using reverb to make them sound denser and foggier. Kuhn gathered ambient sounds and turned them into samples: crickets chirping, feet thwacking through tall grass, an elevator humming, a woman yelling in a stairwell (cribbed from a documentary on schizophrenia). Ironically, as their approach got more haphazard, the music seemed more focused. *Each/other* features a series of rock ballads that, if not exactly clean, at least have a singing quality. Several tracks are bolstered by viola from Dina Maccabee, who adds an ornate vibrato polish to the duo's lean setup.

Show Details

At Bottom of the Hill (1233 17th St., San Francisco) on Thursday, May 3. 9 p.m. $10. BottomoftheHill.com

Such attributes, combined with a patchwork structure, might explain the band's surprisingly wide appeal. In the last couple years, Silian Rail has appeared on warehouse bills with avant-garde jazz bassist Trevor Dunn, in garage venues, bookstores, and art galleries, and also in mainstream rock venues — the band's CD-release party happens at Bottom of the Hill. Landy and Kuhn seem to have carved out a niche, albeit an amorphous one. They'd still argue that beautiful music doesn't require the kind of hooks you can sink your teeth into. And they still seem not to care whether listeners remember the name "Silian Rail." ●

Rachel.Swan@EastBayExpress.com

PLAYING HOOKY

Hook-sputtering hip-hop, high-pitch vocal modulations, and harrowing melancholy

Future

Pluto

Future is a rapper, sort of. More than that, as *Fader* magazine said, he's "a chorus monster." His voice, pitch-corrected and wrung through a promethazine-codeine-laced sieve, isn't a human voice. It's the voice of a sputtering robot, muscling out a last urgent plea before the world spins into apocalypse: *two bad bitches at the same damn time*.

In all seriousness, Future's uncomplicated, singsong style takes some getting used to. But it's well worth it. He's of reputable stock (ATL's Dungeon Family collective — somebody say Outkast?) and *Pluto* is his solo debut. He's changed a bit since the mixtapes of the past few years, but this album still ties in the *Dirty Sprite*-sippin' *Scarface*-impersonating Future that first made heads turn.

One of the best moments of *Pluto* is right at the beginning — Big Rube, Atlanta's spoken word interlude guru, kicks off the album with an Outkast-caliber monologue. He books you into a NASA-worthy mission statement, setting up for a whole album of space analogy: *The future is now.*

Then R. Kelly drops in on "Parachute." He clears his throat and lays into his version of a club banger. In Future form, the melody is fairly monotonous (and autotuned) by Kells' standards, but he teases in his famous, newly surgically repaired tenor: *Now I got my voice back!*

The outer-space allegory doesn't cling together super tightly, but the album is packed with great features: T.I., Juicy J, Snoop Dogg, and a new version of "Tony Montana" (if you haven't heard, the best Future track) with a verse from Drake. It's certainly an adequate "best of" for anyone who doesn't want to peruse his earlier releases. (Epic Records)

— *Will Butler*

Preteen Zenith

Rubble Guts & BB Eye

It's not as catchy as Tripping Daisy or as freewheeling as The Polyphonic Spree, but persistent eccentric Tim DeLaughter's new project Preteen Zenith still relies on high-pitched vocals layered over blown-out symphonic pop. That seems to be a trope he can't (or won't) escape, for better and worse. While DeLaughter neophytes may treat this comparatively subdued outing as an entry into his oeuvre, longtime fans might quickly find themselves reverting to old favorites.

Among the unconverted, fans of The Flaming Lips and Super Furry Animals may take most easily to *Rubble Guts & BB Eye*'s introspective take on outsider pop, which despite being performed by a full band (Preteen Zenith's live debut last summer featured a six-member lineup) feels more personal than DeLaughter's previous work. There are few mentions of *I* and *me* in the lyrics, but there's also scant artifice along the lines of affected weirdness (Tripping Daisy) or two-dozen-member symphonic ensembles (The Polyphonic Spree). In fact, the first track, "Breathe," opens like a home demo: the singer picking his guitar alone, raw and raspy DeLaughter's voice is modulated upward as he sounds as tiny as a bug, yet still himself.

Unexpectedly, *Rubble Guts & BB Eye* is abristle with dynamism. It ebbs and flows like an Explosions in the Sky record, with guitars, strings, keyboards, drums, and voices swelling and shrinking and swelling, an emotional rollercoaster in every track. At two and a half minutes, "Breathe" goes full throttle — *Breathe like you and me!* — then downshifts to a parting drumbeat. "Relief" opens with a restrained Arcade Fire stomp, then bulges with an ecstatic middle section, then retracts. "Overcome" moves from instrumental to march to ballad, elements that complement one another much as *Rubble Guts* fits neatly within DeLaughter's maturing body of work. (Good Records Recordings)

— *Nate Seltenrich*

Simone Felice

Simone Felice

Simone Felice was drummer and singer for Catskills Mountains-spawned roots-rockers The Felice Brothers. After parting ways with them, he formed The Duke & the King and is now sailing under his own flag. *Simone Felice* is one of those albums that's superficially mellow and soothing, yet loaded with overcast, sometimes darkly humorous, sometimes harrowing lyrics. Felice has a gentle, measured, whispery voice evoking Paul Simon and Phil Collins (in his less smarmy moments); musically, it's an appealing yet unambiguously melancholy mix of country, folk, and pop in the vein of Bonnie Prince Billy, Leonard Cohen, Lee Hazlewood, and even Glen Campbell. Felice's songs are softly framed by acoustic guitars, banjo, church-y organ, tinkling honky-tonk piano, horns, occasional gospel overtones, and choirs (members of Catskill High School's Trebleaires).

"New York Times" is a meditation on horrific news that seems to keep coming heavy and fast via the pages of the ubiquitous newspaper and how the singer assimilates it (or not). "Courtney Love" is a droll tribute to that survivor-princess' tribulations in which the narrator humbly offers to make things better. The countryside gothic "Dawn Brady's Son" and the overly melodramatic "Ballad of Sharon Tate" are tragic tales of people whose life-paths never intersected with "luck" and "happiness." One of the few rays of light and hope herein is the gospel-style "You & I Belong," a hand clap- and whistling-driven celebration of life's redemptive elements. Seeking glad-to-be-unhappy catharsis? This be the place. (Team Love)

— *Mark Keresman*

LOCAL LICKS

Jason Bodlovich Group

Moby Ahab

You gotta hand it to Jason Bodlovich. Even though his music could serve as the extradiegetic soundtrack for a romantic comedy that takes place in a diner, the guitarist deserves credit for knowing enough about compositional structure to write eleven breezy rock tunes. Bodlovich is a decent improviser and he gets to flex on "Ode to Joe." (Moby Ahab Productions)

I-O.A.K.

Special Request

Local crooner and technically proficient gulper I-O.A.K. has successfully married all the clichés of contemporary hip-hop and R&B: breezy smooth jazz chords; digital beats; expressions of affection tempered with masculine posturing; a pinched, boyish tenor. And, on-the-cheap production aside, it's an immediately catchy album. With a little vocal coaching (or assistance from Auto-Tune), he'll be magnificent. (Honor Roll Crew)

The Glorious First of June

Demos for the World

Guitarist Richard Stark grouses about being in "a lonely niche" — i.e. the intersection of sensitive-guy poetry and extremely palatable acoustic folk music — but in reality, loneliness might be salutary for his art. Take a song like "You'll Never Find Me": *You'll never find me/You'll never take me alive*. Such declarations could only originate from one who stands apart from the crowd. (self-released)

At Hotel Utah (500 4th St., San Francisco) on Friday, Apr. 27, 8 p.m. $8, $10.

Mads Tolling Quartet

Celebrating Jean-Luc Ponty Live at Yoshi's

Violin jazz may be an acquired taste, but there's little debate that Mads Tolling is one of the best young technicians in the genre, not to mention one of the most dynamic improvisers. ("Dynamic" meaning both "nimble" and "capable of using sound volume to create texture.") Here, the Copenhagen-raised violinist pays tribute to his idol, Jean Luc Ponty, with a fabulously polished quartet. (Madunan Records)

At Yoshi's (1330 Fillmore St., San Francisco) on Monday, May 21, 8 p.m. $14. ■

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Skip Stanfield [illegible], Quinn's Lighthouse, 8 p.m. free

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Dave Manley Hand [illegible], oldies, jazz, & pop, Pete's Restaurant, 9 p.m. free

DJ Lebowitz plays Happy Hour Punk Piano Disco Volante, 5 p.m. free

Gardens & Villa with [illegible], The New Parish, 9 p.m. $17

Hole In My Head with [illegible], Mile High Club, 7 p.m.

[illegible], with [illegible], Stork Club and Dusty Moffy Vibes, 9 p.m. $15 $20

The Spazmatics [illegible] Irish Sports Bar, 10 p.m. free

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Don Mendoza Trio live jazz, [illegible], 7:30-11 p.m. free

[illegible] with guests, Yoshi's San Francisco, 6-9 p.m. free

George Stamatiou Scott Howard, 8:30 p.m.

The Martini Balancia La Copanigi, 7-10 p.m. free

Stompy Jones San Francisco-based [illegible] Top of the Mark, 7:30-11:30 p.m., $10

Rock & Pop

Ben Kweller with [illegible] and Noah Gundersen, Great American Music Hall, 8 p.m. $20

The Gig with [illegible] and [illegible], Bottom of the Hill, 9 p.m., $10

Dubsonic with [illegible] and [illegible] With Sasha Mobetty, Cafe du Nord, 9 p.m. $10 $12

Final Riots with [illegible] and [illegible] Leaves, The Independent, 9 p.m., $15 $17

Kittie with [illegible], The [illegible], and [illegible], The Regency Ballroom, 7:30 p.m., $25

The Hounds plus [illegible], Rickshaw Stop, 9 p.m., $12

The Lows with Freedom Club and Street Justice, The Knockout, 10 p.m. $6

Night Call with [illegible] and Big Drag, Hemlock Tavern, 9 p.m., $6

Tripping Hippies with Ghost Town Refugees and Ass Patrons of Venus, Thee Parkside, 9 p.m. $10

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Tee & Los Mas Mojito, 8:30 p.m. free

Flamenco Thursdays with [illegible] & Stephanie [illegible], Pete's Restaurant, 9 p.m. $12

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FRIDAY 27

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Farmed Bay with the Shotgun Wedding, special Vibes, 9 p.m. $7

Dan Frechette [illegible], [illegible], with **Alasdair Fraser** Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m. $22.50, $24.50

Experimental & Avant Garde

Open Option [illegible] 8 p.m., $8, $8 [illegible]

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Bill Cabney 57th Street Gallery, 8:30 p.m. $15

Dance [illegible] Yoshi's Oakland, 8 & 10 p.m. $20-$25

Paco de Lucia Paramount Theatre, 8 p.m. $25-$75

Bud Dunlop dinner jazz with guest cabaret singers, The Alley, 9 p.m. free

Rock & Pop

Pulu Johnson Gang with Heavy For Everything and 150% [illegible], Mile High Club, 9 p.m.

Dave Manley piano classics of [illegible], oldies, etc., 9 p.m. Pete's Restaurant, 9 p.m. free

Mission Down [illegible], Uptown, 9 p.m. free

The Dynas with Pal-Legendary and the Dreamers and The Angerovens, Stork Plough, 9:30 p.m. $8

Dzeet with [illegible] and Ghost, Fox Theater, 8 p.m. $35

Monsters To Last with Hold Up Kid, The Caps, Hello Cover, Modern Kicks, and The Nugs, 924 Gilman, 7 p.m. $8

The Shakedown with special guests, The Uptown, 9 p.m. $10 $20

Tragedy with Talk Is Poison, Hunting Party, [illegible] and Negative Standards, Oakland Metro Operahouse, 7 p.m. $10

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Locura with [illegible] and [illegible], The New Parish, 9 p.m., $17, $10

Trio [illegible] with DJ Pablo Tango Boom Boom Room, 8:30 p.m., [illegible], 9:30 p.m., $15, $12

Mastodon plays The Fox Theater Fri 4/27

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Guitarmageddon Blues Hall Wedding, Mick Calderon, Josh Clark, [illegible], Kelton Kurth, Sean Leahy, [illegible], [illegible], Jeff Miller & Ryan Smith, Sean Leahy Inc. and Rankin, Slim's, 8:00 p.m., $13, $18

Joyce Dixon & Norman [illegible] Zingari Ristorante, 8 p.m.-midnight, free

Dixie Mexico [illegible], 8 & 10 p.m. $22

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Ann Hermann Trio live jazz, Ana Mandara, 8-11:30 p.m. free

Black Market Jazz Orchestra Top of the Mark, 9 p.m. $10

Dustin Metheny Jewish Community Center of San Francisco, 1 p.m. free

Eddie Pasternak Duo with guests, Yoshi's San Francisco, 6-9 p.m. free

special [illegible] Scott Howard, 8:30 p.m.

Henry Irvin Trio [illegible] Boom Boom and Renata, 5:30-8 p.m. and

Rock & Pop

The Mermen with Upside Down and Kartel With Sasha Mobetty, [illegible], 9 p.m. $7

Mark Allen with [illegible], Swedish American Hall, 9 p.m. $13

Brigitte with The Pageant, [illegible] American Music Hall, 8 p.m., $16

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Cypress Hill The Warfield, 8 p.m. $35.50

Stoopy with The Shakers, Boom Boom Room, 9:30 p.m., $10

SATURDAY 28

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Frank Bohrer, Ashworth & Shatoffers with Marie Moody Band and Ed Massage, Stork Plough, 9:30 p.m. $8 $10

Hermano Family Moocho Happy hour, Stork Plough, 5 p.m. free

Dan Frechette [illegible] with **Alasdair Fraser** Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m. $22.50, $24.50

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Dance [illegible] Yoshi's [illegible], 8 & 10 p.m. $20-$25

The Drummers Richardson Jazz Ensemble Disco Volante, 8 p.m., $7

Jazz & Joy Fruits of Joy, 5:30 p.m. free

Paul Tomlinson Trio Jupiter, 8 p.m., free

Bud Dunlop dinner jazz with guest cabaret singers, The Alley, 9 p.m. free

[illegible] 57th Street Gallery, 8:30 p.m. $15

Kids

Los Bluegrass de La Peña Saturday morning children's show with live music, La Peña Cultural Center, 10:30 a.m., $6, kids $3

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Rock & Pop

Blues Dementia with Missing Parts and Go Van Gogh, Vitus, 8 p.m. $10.
Jonas with [illegible], Ann [illegible] and Kelly [illegible] (Children's Ovarian Benefit), Fox [illegible], 8 p.m. $10-$1,000.
Blues Hockey piano covers of classics, oldies, jazz, 8 p.m., Peter's Restaurant, 4 p.m. free
Jimmi Demo with Saiyo-Sono, Electric Chair Repair Co., and Timeless Bride, Club, 9 p.m. $8
Slippers with [illegible], Gel, and [illegible], Merchant's Saloon, 8 p.m., $5
Movie 13 with Combo, Between Your Teeth, Sanctum, and [illegible], 924 Gilman, 7 p.m. $10
The The Go's with D'Jelly Bean and [illegible] Sound Club, Eli's Mile High Club, 7 p.m.

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

DJ Kali Dorsey's Locker, 9 p.m., free
Music High Between Music Opera house, 8 p.m. $12

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

All Night [illegible] George [illegible] at 9:30 p.m., then party till dawn, The Beat, The Berkeley Performing Arts, 10:30 p.m., $15 between [illegible], $15 for [illegible]
Blues Red & West [illegible] Night with dance lesson at 8 p.m., Ashkenaz, 9:30 p.m. $13-$15
Ashkenaz Music and Between Play: Wayang Kulit Hertz Hall, 8 p.m. $15-$50

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Music Hearts And The Farm Band with The [illegible] and The [illegible], Cafe du Nord, 8 p.m. $10-$12
Concert East [illegible], 8-11 p.m., free
Lord Loves A Working Man with [illegible], Between and The Blue Bird Review and Song Preservation Society, [illegible] of the Hill, 8 p.m. $10
Matinata of [illegible] [illegible] with [illegible] Cafe [illegible], 10:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m., free
Thomas & The Blues Ambassadors Restore 8 Blues, 8 & 10 p.m. $22

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Ann [illegible] Trio live jazz, Ann [illegible] at 11:30 p.m., free
[illegible] with [illegible], Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 p.m., free
George Michalski Scott Howard, 8:30 p.m.
[illegible] JazzFest: [illegible] Lane Jewish Community Center of San Francisco, 8 p.m. $25-$35
Thousand [illegible] Hall [illegible], 8 p.m., $10

Rock & Pop

The Passions with The Soft [illegible] The Goldenhearts, Billy Crumes And Sharp The Lamb, and DJ Neil Martinson, Brick & Mortar Music Hall, 8 p.m. $7-$10
Between with Culture Mob and Caged Animal, The Knockout, 4 p.m.
Brunch [illegible] with Enemy's [illegible], Thee Parkside, 3 p.m., free
Filthy Morning [illegible] with The Brentypes and [illegible], El Rio, 10 p.m., $6
The House & Gelys with Young Prisms, Moltsta, and Light Fantastic, Brick & Mortar Music Hall, 9 p.m. $10-$15
On Hover with The Providence, Tyler Carter, and 5000 [illegible] of The Hill, 9:30 p.m. $12
John Reilly and Friends with The Toothless Jades, Pianos's 315 Club, 8 p.m., $20
Legend with Mister Loveless and Crosses For Stopping, The Independent, 8 p.m. $17
Honor & The Blues with The Hi-Notes and The Knife, Hemlock Tavern, 9:30 p.m. $10
Nocturine Pie with Comatose, The Hintonations, and Coke and Glitter, Between Tavern, 9 p.m. $7
Planet Booty with Greenhorse, Cafe du Nord, 7:30 p.m. $12
The Brunch Mansions All Star Band The Regency Ballroom, 8 p.m.
Female Blues with Shak Sendi, The Engineer, [illegible] The Crown, and Mad Bog, Great American Music Hall, 8 & 10:30 p.m. $25, $35
Tooltime with Rewards (DJ set), Rickshaw Stop, 8 p.m., $10-$12
Tipper The Fillmore, 8 p.m., $25
Tragedy with Western Sete Star Sept, Permanent Fate, and Inspector Thee Parkside, 9 p.m., $10

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

DJ Themes The Regency Ballroom, 9 p.m., $32.50
The Between with House Boogie, House Blues Hover, 9:30 p.m., $10
Blues & Marlin with Malt Abrahams and Tropigation, Mezzanine, 8 p.m. $25

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Bugs & The April [illegible] with Shake Your Booty, The Independent, 9:30 p.m., $15-$20

SUNDAY 29

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Americana Unplugged Jupiter, 5 p.m., free
Jimmy's All Star Super Tooltime Jimmy hosts a different blues band every week, Pal's Restaurant, 5 p.m., free
Between All with Mad & Crew and Margot James, Disco Volante, 7 p.m., free
George Morning Hover with Pan Hover, Caffe Mediterraneum, 10 a.m., free
Sycamore Slough [illegible] with Angus Gore, Starry Plough, 4 p.m. $8-$10
Teresa Tudi Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m. $20.50-$22.50

Classical & Opera

Kurt [illegible] Series: Soprano Sondries Plus with piano accompaniment by Susan Moroff, Hertz Hall, 3 p.m. $48
Ashkenaz Quartet Piedmont [illegible] Company, 4 p.m. $15

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Yoshi's, Between, 6 & 8 p.m., $20-$25
Dave Matheny Paradiso, 4:30 p.m. $15-$22
Hi Between jazz-inspired piano [illegible] tunes, Hipple Gerry Cafe, 12:30 p.m., free
Jazz and R&B Night Dorsey's Locker, 8:30 p.m., free
Jim Paradiso Jazz Quartet classic & contemporary jazz, Caffe Vio, 3-6 p.m., free
John Schott Actual Cafe, 5 p.m., free
Loyal Brunch Cafe Van Kleef, 4 p.m.
The Sandy Music Trio Pibbi's [illegible], 6:20-10 p.m., free
[illegible] Trio Hover Paradiso, 8 p.m.-8:30 p.m., free

Kids

Saggy Between Wiki Hover Ashkenaz, 3 p.m. $4-$6

Rock & Pop

Bobby Joe Ebola & The Childrenmakers with American Spills, Culmen, Clan Hoverts, Hero Music Machine, Jeff Street, the Stick Hall, and Baby Dave Brunch & Castle (on-related benefit), 924 Gilman, 3 p.m.

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Shuffle George (Between) & Drew Starney with Jenetta Rosa, J. Marie D (Between) J. Mitchell, Brassy Lowdey, Keeser, and Kev Wheels & Friends, The New Parish, 8 p.m.

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Between de Brunch Afro-Cuban rumba percussion & dance party, Cafe [illegible], 3:30-6:30 p.m., free

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Brunch West Trio with Slim Jenkins, The West Coast Ashkenaz, The B-Stars, Hill & The Standard Men, Stormy Hover, Hover Between and P.B., West Club, 2 p.m. $15-$20
The Hover Sprouters Thee Parkside, 4 p.m., free
Songwriter Sundays rotating artists perform in the lounge, Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 p.m.-midnight, $3
Sara Paradiso Johnny Foley's Irish House, 9 p.m., free

Classical & Opera

Between [illegible] on piano for Sunday Hover jazz brunch, top of The Mark, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., $59 for brunch plus [illegible] and tax

Gospel & Vocal

Gospel Brunch with Future Perfect & rotating guests, 1300 on Fillmore, 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. $39, Thomas [illegible]

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Duck of The Lee Sunday [illegible] series, Brunch, 8 p.m., $20-$30, $50 Hover and show
[illegible] JazzFest: [illegible] Between Brunch Quartet Jewish Community Center of San Francisco, 7 p.m., $25-$35
Hover Lainanea & Friends featuring Brunch Speight, Sam Grape-Holes, & Mark Gilbanar, Biscuits Saloon, 4:30-8:30 p.m., $5

Rock & Pop

Bad Yoga with Missile & Between, Between and Apocryphon, Between Tavern, 8 p.m., $7
Excelsior [illegible] with The Lonely Wild, Brick & Mortar Music Hall, 8 p.m., $8-$10
Julia Hover Rickshaw Stop, 8 p.m., $12
Hover Hover Hover with Kap, Kurt Travis, and Swerdz, Bottom of the Hill, 8:30 p.m., $10-$25

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Hover Lovas & The Panhandlers Boom Boom Room, 9:30 p.m., $6

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Inspector Gadjo with Sangrado and Kelter Greenberg, Cafe du Nord, 8 p.m., $10

MONDAY 30

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

La Fleur Fatale with The Latin Moons, Vitus, 9:30 p.m. $6
Uptown Bounce Hubba live burlesque with Hubba Hubba Revue, The Uptown, 9 p.m. $6

Classical & Opera

Rainbow at the Freight: Haydn's Rainbow Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m. $8.50-$10.50

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

St. Francis High Brunch Jazz Band Yoshi's Between, 8 p.m. $15

Kids

Gondolier with Guzo Ashkenaz, 10 a.m., $6

SAN FRANCISCO

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Le Jazz Hot Le Colonial, 7 p.m., free
Monday Night Pro Jazz Jam with Mike Olmos, Rebirth & Blues, 7:30 p.m., $12

Rock & Pop

Jason Thomas with Mental 99, Wiki Rains, 9 p.m., $10
Hover Johnny Foley's Irish House, 9 p.m., free
Tarnis with Wild Beat, The Independent, 8 p.m., $13-$15

TUESDAY 1

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Country Western Dance Night with lessons, Ventura's Bar & Grill, 7:30-11 p.m., free
Dwight "Blues Cat" [illegible] with Cajun/Zydeco dance lesson at 8 p.m., Ashkenaz, 8:30 p.m., $13-$16
Henry Tenney & The Blues Tower Portuguese Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m. $17.50-$19.50
Brunch Reilly Pier's Restaurant, 7:30-9 p.m., free
Between Night Live Music This week: Quake City Jug Band, Julia's Coffee & Tea Garden, 7 p.m., $6 suggested

Classical & Opera

San Francisco Symphony Performs Between Delights Sara Hover, Between piano by [illegible] and Brunch, Zellerbach Hall, 8 p.m. $30

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Eddie Paradiso Rad with Bob Brunch, Cafe Rouge, 6:45 p.m., free
Jazzschool Tuesdays Between Between from the Berkeley music [illegible], Jupiter, 8 p.m., free
The Brunch of Boogie Woogie Between, Lady Tamaca, Tofu Oden, Sam Planet and Wendy DeWitt, Yoshi's Oakland, 8 p.m., $36
Bad Dance Hover jam with guest hosted singers, The Alley, 8 p.m., free

Loquat plays the Independent on 4/28

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PICKS

Cher Horowitz

Cher Horowitz

Cher Horowitz. Great handle, impossible to Google. But deep in the fact that this all-girl punk quartet shares its name with the much-more-famous *Clueless* heroine (and onetime idol of fifth-grade girls everywhere), it's well worth whatever keyword acrobatics it takes to track 'em down. The band's 2011 EP, the brilliantly-named *Baby, Snow Jams' Outfits Astrology!* is a rollicking, reverb-drenched ride through the high school experience you never had — or like what might've happened if the fictional Cher Horowitz had gotten mixed up with a bunch of riot grrls in freshman gym instead of Dionne and Tai — or maybe just Nineties pop-culture nostalgia done exactly right. That is, with fuzzed-out guitars, unrelenting drums, half-yelled lyrics, and a palpable (if snarly) kind of giddiness — neither too ironic nor too reverent, stuck in the delicious somewhere between complete seriousness and all-out joking and wisely employing the character less as a conception than as a jumping-off point to sing about all kinds of problems (high school-specific or not). The show goes down at 924 Gilman (924 Gilman St., Berkeley), which means there's a decent chance the Gilman audience will be too young to get it, but as Horowitz herself would say: Whatever! On Sunday, Apr. 29, with Bobby Joe Ebola and the Children MacNuggits, American Splits, Jeff Rowe, Songlove, and Criminal as part of a benefit for El Sobrante's Hansel and Gretel cooperative preschool. 3 p.m., $5–$10 sliding scale. 924Gilman.org — *Ellen Cushing*

Mastodon

Mastodon has had one of the most consistently shifting careers in recent musical history. When its debut album, *Remission*, was released ten years ago, people basically went ape-shit. Few bands had produced such a cohesive, forceful, singular vision of growling, proggy — jazzy, even — sludge metal. Sure enough, Mastodon ushered in a new wave of prog metal followers. But with *Remission*'s follow-up, *Leviathan*, it was clear that this was a band that had big ideas and could not be contained, creatively or otherwise. That wasn't necessarily welcome news. The concept/progginess reached new accessible heights with 2009's *Crack the Skye*, which not only thrust Mastodon into the mainstream but effectively alienated a large portion of its original fanbase. It didn't matter much, since it also exposed the band to a much wider, younger crowd. *The Hunter* sees Mastodon continuing down the path to mainstream acceptance and Grammy awards, but live, it's wider to see how the band's earlier riff-based work gels with its latter, poppier material. And, anyway, if there's one thing people can count on, it's that Mastodon won't stop trying to out-do itself. At The Fox Theater (1807 Telegraph Ave., Oakland) on *Friday, Apr. 27*, with Ghost and Opeth. 8 p.m., $39.50. TheFoxOakland.com — *Kathleen Richards*

Roach Gigz

He may be petulant and potty-mouthed, but there's little debate that KMEL Top 10 Freshman contestant Roach Gigz is one of the best rappers operating in the Bay Area right now. And were it not for his utterly infuriating lyrics, he might be hailed as the best, bar none. Roach tends to fixate on personal vices and ineluctable pleasures — he's a drug user, loafer, moocher, manipulator and indefatigable womanizer — but he'll occasionally let slip a bit of social commentary. *It's crazy how the city change/I don't see nobody from the city 'cept*, Roach raps, waxing philosophical about gentrification and San Francisco's burgeoning tech economy in the song "Glass," which is otherwise about some girl with a booty. Lyrics notwithstanding, Roach has a near-perfect sense of rhythm. He syncopates lines, raps words as triplet figures, and always stays in the pocket of the beat. In a genre that tends to privilege style over substance, he'll have amazing longevity. At Oakland Metro Operahouse (630 3rd St., Oakland) on Saturday, Apr. 28. 8 p.m., $12–$15. OaklandMetro.org — *Rachel Swan*

Gardens & Villa

Santa Barbara's Gardens & Villa dips into rock, synth-pop, lite pop, and any other contrived genre that you could imagine, thrashing through your iPod on a sunny afternoon at Mosswood Park. But Gardens & Villa is greatly deserving of anything you'd throw at it: with a solid rhythmic base, definite vocal panache, a flute, and appealing, trebly electronic adornments, it makes for one of the most light-hearted listening experiences in independent music today. The band's friend and fellow Santa Barbarian Nathan Salman leads Waterstrider, another resplendent, jangle-pop outfit from Berkeley. They've played shows together before, and I couldn't imagine two better-suited bands to put on the same bill. Gardens & Villa just finished recording a second album and Waterstrider is penning its first. Both promise to be perfect entries to summer. At The New Parish (579 18th St., Oakland) on Thursday, Apr. 26. 9 p.m., $10. TheNewParish.com — *Will Butler*

Kelley Stoltz

Kelley Stoltz appears to have what would have been an idealized musician's life since 1997: spending months writing and recording songs, with a roomful of vintage instruments at his disposal, and then touring around the world to a constant stream of fans. Somehow, in the 21st century, Stoltz is living this analog dream (he records to tape only) and he can still afford an apartment in San Francisco. Well, not somehow: Stoltz is, of course, an incredibly talented songwriter whose muse shows no signs of leaving him alone. Which is just as well. His last effort, *To Dreamers*, still finds him firmly planted in the sounds of the past, producing such swooping numbers like "I Like, I Like" and jangly instant-classics like "Rock & Roll with Me." If anyone should be allowed to live in the past, it's definitely him. With Fruit Bats and Cold Leaves at The Independent (628 Divisadero St., San Francisco) on Thursday, Apr. 26. 8 p.m., $15. 617 TheIndependentSF.com — *K.R.*

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THE STARRY PLOUGH PUB
THU 4/26 8:00PM SKY-I PRESENTS FUNKY [illegible] NIGHT SOL HORIZON PAELLA CREOLE (DJ [illegible] & SKY-I)
FRI 4/27 8:30PM 58 FRIDAYS PRESENTS THE OGRES PRE-LEGENDARY & THE DREAMERS THE ANDSTRAMS
SAT 4/28 8:30PM SEAWEED SWAY PRESENTS [illegible] MAMA MADDY BAND; HAWK & THE GIRL
SUN 4/29 3:00PM ALL-AGES MATINEE SYCAMORE SLOUGH STRING BAND RAGGED GLORY III (PAT NEVINS, DAVID GANS & FRIENDS)
THU 5/3 8:00PM THE ABC JAM: AMERICANA, BLUES & COUNTRY – HOSTED BY THE GOLDDIGGERS
FRI 5/4 8:30PM HELLA FUN TRIBUTE NIGHT FEAT JAPANESE BABY (THE CURE) LUV'N ROCKETS (LOVE & ROCKETS) MADAM & THE AN[illegible] (ADAM & THE ANTS)
SAT 5/5 8:30PM SOUR MASH HUG BAND 5 CENT COFFEE THE SWEET TRADE
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Steve Carter Group Bistro Volante, 8 p.m. free

Rock & Pop

At The Stake with The My My Hey Heys, The Missouri Sunsets, and Globe Sound, Stork Club. 9 p.m. $8

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

The Blue Candle spoken word event with comedy and Chi Ramey's Locker, 7 p.m. free

Ionospace Jupiter, 9 p.m. free

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Jake Nielsen's Triple Threat Biscuits & Blues. 8 & 10 p.m. $15

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] playing soft jazz piano. Top of the Mark. 6:30-11:30 p.m. $5-10

Tuesday Night Jump! Stompy Jones plays retro jazz plus a swing dance. Verdi Club. 9 p.m. $10-$12

Rock & Pop

[illegible] with the Monk, Mission Tavern, 9 p.m. $6

Girl in a Coma with Piñata Protest and [illegible], The Independent, 9 p.m. $15

Joe Pug with [illegible] and Goodnight Texas, [illegible], 9 p.m. $12

Cedar Walton plays Yoshi's Oakland on 4/27

Midnight Breed [illegible] Boom Boom Room, 9 p.m. free

People's Temple with Proto-[illegible], [illegible], and [illegible], The Knockout, 9:30 p.m. $6

[illegible] with The Wild [illegible], Cafe du Nord, 8:30 p.m. $15

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] & The [illegible] Boom Boom Room, 9:30 p.m. $5

VENUE DIRECTORY

EAST BAY

5th Street Art Lounge 5301 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-654-6874

924 Gilman 924 Gilman St., Berkeley, 510-525-9926.

Air Bar & Lounge 407 9th St., Lower Patio, Oakland 510-444-2377

Albatross Pub 1822 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley 510-843-2473

The Alley 3325 Grand Ave., Oakland 510-444-8505

Amoeba Music 2455 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley 510-549-1125.

Armando's 707 Marina Vista Ave., Martinez, 925-228-8685

Art House Gallery & Cultural Center 2905 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-472-3170

Ashkenaz 1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley 510-525-5054

The Baltic 135 Park Pl., Point Richmond, 510-237-1000

Bench and Bar 510 17th St., Oakland 510-444-2266

[illegible] Center for the Arts [illegible] St., Oakland 510-523-[illegible]

The [illegible] 1901 5 St., Oakland, 510-986-8525

Cafe Van Kleef 1621 Telegraph Ave., Oakland 510-763-7711

Caffe Trieste 2500 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley 510-548-5198.

Chester's Bayview Club 1508 [illegible] St. #B, [illegible] 510-849-9995.

Club 1220 1220 Pine St., Walnut Creek, 925-938-4550

Club 21 2111 Franklin St., Oakland 510-268-9425

Club Anton 428 3rd St., Oakland 510-463-0165.

Coffee Mill 3363 Grand Ave., Oakland 510-465-4224

Conga Lounge 5422 College Ave., Oakland 510-463-2681

Dan's [illegible] Sports Bar 1524 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek, 925-932-1091

[illegible] 340 14th St., Oakland 510-663-4211.

[illegible] Hall 2505 [illegible] Ave., Alameda, 415-345-8116

Easy Lounge 3255 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland 510-338-4811

Eli's Mile High Club 3629 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland 510-594-0000.

Era Art Bar and Lounge 19 Grand Ave., Oakland 510-444-4480

Everett & Jones Barbeque 126 Broadway, Oakland 510-663-2350

First Congregational Church 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley 510-848-3696.

First Presbyterian Church 2619 Broadway, Oakland, 510-444-3555.

Fox Theater 1807 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 800-745-3000

[illegible] 171 W. Tennyson Rd., Hayward 510-[illegible]

Freight & Salvage 2020 Addison St., Berkeley 510-644-2020

Hertz Hall UC Berkeley, Bancroft Way at College Ave., Berkeley 510-642-9988.

High Street Station 1303 High St., Alameda, 510-995-8049

[illegible] 1458 [illegible] St., Alameda, 510-865-2225

Jazzschool 2087 Addison St., Berkeley 510-845-5373

Jewish Community Center of the East Bay 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley 510-848-0237

[illegible] 1313 Park St., Alameda, 510-522-5150

[illegible] & [illegible] 1223 Park St., Alameda, 510-865-7385

Jupiter 2181 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-8277

[illegible] 1408 [illegible] St., Oakland 510-[illegible]

[illegible] 520 3rd St., Oakland 510-444-6431

[illegible]'s Lucky Lounge 3320 Grand Ave., Oakland 510-[illegible]

Kingman's Ivy Room 860 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-526-5888

La Peña Cultural Center 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-849-2568

Lake Merritt United Methodist Church 1330 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland 510-465-4793.

Lakeshore [illegible] Baptist Church 3534 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-893-2484

[illegible] Lounge Oakland 906 [illegible] St., Oakland 510-[illegible]

The Layover 1517 Franklin St., Oakland, 510-834-1501

Lost Weekend Lounge 2320 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda 510-523-4700

Lounge 3411 3411 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland [illegible]

Luka's Taproom & Lounge 2221 Broadway, Oakland, 510-451-4677

[illegible] Sports Bar & Grill 1720 N. Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-256-7800.

[illegible] Lounge 340 13th St., Oakland 510-839-8120

[illegible] Lounge 3300 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland 510-[illegible]

Missouri Lounge 2600 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley 510-548-2080.

The New Parish 579 18th St., Oakland 510-444-7474

[illegible] Cafe 2160 [illegible] Ave., Oakland 510-[illegible]

Oakland City Center 500 12th St., Oakland 510-238-[illegible]

Oakland Metro Operahouse 630 3rd St., Oakland 510-763-1146.

Oracle Arena 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland, 510-569-2121.

WEDNESDAY 2

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] with [illegible], Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $24.50, $26.50

[illegible] Lounge 2272 Telegraph Ave., Oakland 510-[illegible]

Paramount Theatre 2025 Broadway, Oakland 510-465-6400

Piedmont Center for the Arts 801 Magnolia Ave., Piedmont, PiedmontCenterfortheArts.org

Piedmont Piano Company 1728 San Pablo Ave., Oakland 510-548-8188

Quinn's Lighthouse 1951 Embarcadero Cove, Oakland, 510-536-2050.

Radio 435 13th St., Oakland 510-451-2889

Rhythmix Cultural Works 2513 Blanding Ave., Alameda 510-865-5060

[illegible] 1745 San Pablo Ave., Oakland

[illegible] 3553 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-284-4872

[illegible] 1138 [illegible] Ave., Alameda, 510-337-9190

Ruby Room 132 14th St., Oakland, 510-444-7224

[illegible] 4200 [illegible] Rd., Berkeley, 510-[illegible]

Shattuck Down Low 2284 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-548-1159

[illegible] 2410 San Ramon Valley Blvd. (Ste 130), San Ramon 925-837-9777

Shoreline Amphitheatre One Amphitheatre Pkwy., Mountain View, 650-967-3000

[illegible] 2424 Lincoln Ave., Alameda 510-522-1330

[illegible] Lounge 1500 Main St., Walnut Creek, [illegible]

St. Mark's Episcopal Church 2300 Bancroft Way, Berkeley 510-848-5107

St. John's Presbyterian Church 2727 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-6830

Starry Plough 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-841-2082.

Stork Club 2330 Telegraph Ave., Oakland 510-444-6174

[illegible] 1510 8th St., Oakland

Subterranean Art House 2179 Bancroft Way, Berkeley 510-681-1251

Sweet Fingers 464 E. 14th St., San Leandro 510-553-9800

Uptown 1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland 510-451-8100

Vinnie's Bar & Grill 2045 Mt. Diablo St., Concord 925-685-5513

[illegible] 201 Broadway, Oakland 510-451-[illegible]

Wente Vineyards Restaurant 5050 Arroyo Rd., Livermore 925-456-2450

[illegible] Auditorium UC Berkeley, Berkeley 510-642-4208

White Horse Inn 6551 Telegraph Ave., Oakland 510-652-3820

Yoshi's 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland, 510-238-9200

Zellerbach Hall UC Berkeley, Berkeley, 510-642-9988

[illegible] 552 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-839-3124.

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UPCOMING SHOWS

WED 4/25
EDDIE ROBERTS' ROUGHNECK
[illegible]

THU 4/26
HOLY SHIT!

FRI 4/27
THE AEROSOLS
[illegible]

SAT 4/28
THE FRESH & ONLY'S
[illegible]

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UPCOMING SHOWS

WEDNESDAY 4/25
TRIPPPLE NIPPLES

THURSDAY 4/26
GARDENS AND VILLA

FRIDAY 4/27
LOCURA
BANG DATA

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THURSDAY 5/03
DEVIN THE DUDE

FRIDAY 5/04
NON STOP BHANGRA

SATURDAY 5/05
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C&C

Whiskey Brothers old-time and bluegrass. Albatross Pub, 9 p.m. free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Bob Gaos & the Sound Wave Rossetti's Roadhouse 8:30 p.m. free

Glitterities with LaFin Absolute du Monde Armed For The Apocalypse Big Brother Little Brother and burlesque acts. Stork Club, 9 p.m. $8

Jazz Theory Performance Views with Carl Garrett 57th Street Gallery 6-8 p.m.

Jesse Sinaneda & Friends Yoshi's Oakland, 8 & 10 p.m. $10, $12

Live Jazz Townhouse Bar & Grill 7:30 p.m. free

Red Oldies dinner jazz with guest cabaret singers. The Alley, 8 p.m., free

Rock & Pop

Steve Hooley piano covers of classics, oldies, jazz. 8 p.m. Peter's Restaurant, 9 p.m. free

Edward Sharpe & The Magnetic Zeros with Aaron Embry. Fox Theater 8 p.m., $32.50

KALX 90.7 FM Presents: Big Thief weekly local band Magnetic The Uptown, 9:30 p.m. free

La Plata with Pirata Protest and The Wave Age. Oz's Mile High Club, 7:30 p.m., $7

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Balkan Folkdance with Three lesson at 7 p.m. Ashkenaz, 8 p.m. $7

Caribbean Night with Reggae Flash and P. Mandek. Dorsey's Locker 7:13 p.m. free

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Brooke Saell Rosette with Victoria Williams and special guests. Pitch & Mortar Music Hall, 9 p.m. $10, $12

Keith Greeninger Invitational Pro Jam with special guest Ron Hacker, Rhythm & Wave 8 & 10 p.m. $15

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Sex Brothers and the Bambo Combo Top of the Mark, 7:30 (1:30 p.m. $10

DiskOrDisk with Claudia & Michael Abraham Armeno, 7 p.m.

Gumbo with the Milah Menous ... Broeese 8 p.m. free

Rock & Pop

Fuzzed with Stratic and Wave Webbing, Hemlock Tavern, 9 p.m. $6

James Morrison with HoneyHoney, the Fillmore 8 p.m. $25

Kelly McFarling CD release, with Lia Rose (CD release) and Fox & Woman, Bottom of the Hill 9 p.m. $10, $12

Swede with Gaz Tadell, Sealions, and Diamond Plata. The Regency Ballroom, 8 p.m., $28-$45

Ty Segall and White Fence with Shannon and the Clams and The Mallards. The Independent 8 p.m. $10, $12

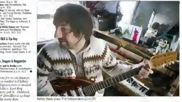
Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Phantom Sessions Dance party with Billy Magic Piece.Awake. Hosted "Get Down" Band Mateus and Brown "The Wizard" Wong. Boom Boom Room, 9:30 p.m. $5

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Freddy James and la Bomba Latin Bernard Mediterranean & contemporary folk, Pena Pachamama, 8 p.m. $12 ●

Submissions for music listings should be e-mailed to Clubs@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Clubs Editor, East Bay Express, 620 3rd St. Oakland, CA, 94607. Deadline is 14 days prior to the event date



Kelley Stoltz plays The Independent 4/26

David Hall May 25
Uncle Kracker May 26
Merle Haggard & Kris Kristofferson May 27
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DJ & DANCE

THURSDAY 26

EAST BAY

Academy Night w/ DJ and VJ Joe C. spinning hip-hop, R&B, dancehall, & Top 40. White Horse Inn, 9 p.m., $5, students free w/ valid ID.

Come Hangout with DJ [illegible] Franco The Layover. 10 p.m. free

Kiss Fever w/ Secret Gem dance spinning reggae & dancehall. Shadowland Restaurant. 10 p.m. free

Come Chill w/ DJs Kool Karlo & Chilli Fox. Shattuck Down Low. 9 p.m. free

dancehall Thursdays Radio. 10 p.m. free

DJ Addi spinning [illegible]. Kingman's Lucky Lounge. 9 p.m. free

DJ Amore The Layover. 9 p.m. free

DJ dams Jupiter. 8 p.m. free

DJ Night DJs spinning dancehall, pop, mind-blowing rock, & dance/hip-hop. Kip's Restaurant. 9:30 p.m. free

DJ Trick spinning [illegible]. Lost Weekend Lounge. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. free

Klub w/ [illegible] Karaoke and weekly guest DJs. Liege. 6 p.m. $5

International Night Lounge featuring DJ [illegible] spinning Eurobeat, French pop, Italian free [illegible], Latin American garage, [illegible] & [illegible]. Forbidden Island. 8 p.m. free

Soulmates The Den. 9 p.m. free

Quayo Quayo w/ DJs [illegible], Kool Kyle, and Uncle Joe. Luka's Taproom & Lounge. 9 p.m. free

Soulmates Drop w/ DJs Bobby B & Mr. Ryko spinning American oldies and reggae. The Missouri Lounge. 10 p.m. free

Riff Raff indie pop, mash-ups, new wave. Radio. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. free

Salsa Night w/ DJ Eddie T plus dance lessons. Vino's Bar & Grill. 8 p.m., $10

Yuriy ladies night w/ DJs [illegible] spinning hip-hop & R&B. Club 21. 9 p.m., $12-$20

[illegible] Dance Sessions featuring DJs Carlos Mena and Cecil. Bench and Bar. 9 p.m. free

SAN FRANCISCO

1984 DJs Damon, Jahn, Evergreen Ron, & Mateo [illegible] spin 80s, & new wave. Cat Club. 9 p.m. free before 9:30 p.m. $6

Afrolicious w/ DJs Sake, Pleasuremaker, Senor Oz, & guests spinning Afro-tropi samba funk. Elbo Room. 10 p.m. $8

Bingotopia by Kara SJ Bass [illegible] Bingo. The Knockout. 7:30-10 p.m. free

Bhangra Night DJs spinning and [illegible] spin hip-hop, reggae, R&B, & more. The Cellar. 11 p.m. free

DJ [illegible] & [illegible] spinning world music. [illegible] 9 p.m. free

DJs [illegible] & [illegible] spinning funky soul & underground hip-hop. Dalva Bar. 9 p.m. free

Hip'n'Bass w/ guest live act, dance performances, & rotating local DJs spinning [illegible] dance beats. Underground SF. 9 p.m. $5-$10

Access Public Works. 9:30 p.m. $5-$12

NightLife Weekly event for adults with cocktails, craft bars, workshops, science [illegible] and rotating [illegible]. This week's feature is [illegible]. Academy of Sciences. 6-10 p.m., $12

Pacific Standard Time spinning DJ Leydis, [illegible] All Day, & [illegible]. Eve Lounge. 9 p.m. free

Phonic rotating DJs. The EndUp. 10 p.m. $10

Sister Managers w/ Bondo, [illegible] City Cult and more. 1015 Folsom Nightclub. 9 p.m. $10-$15

Unpressed w/ [illegible] the Vinyl Archaeologist and guest DJs spinning hip-hop classics, funk, and dancehall, reggae, disco & [illegible]. Club Lounge. 10 p.m. $5

Solid Thursdays featuring DJ Daddy Rolo [illegible]. Club Six. 9 p.m. $5

Strangeways: [illegible] Wedding Night w/ DJs Tomas Diablo & John spinning dark electro, industrial, new wave, & goth. Wedding ceremonies & certificates for all who want to be joined in unholy matrimony. Underground SF. 9 p.m. $5, free if you wear formal attire or zombie makeup.

Tropicana Night DJ [illegible], Sr. Saenz and guests spinning Salsa, Cumbia, Reggaeton and Merengue. Madrone Art Bar. 9 p.m., free

FRIDAY 27

EAST BAY

Andrena & [illegible] Wedding. 10 p.m., free

Club 21 w/ DJs spinning Latin music. Club 21. 8 p.m. $10-$15

DJ [illegible] Jupiter. 9 p.m. free

Spinning w/ DJ Ryan DJ Ryan spinning the hottest music in the Bay Area. White Horse Inn. 9 p.m. $5

Deejays, Games & Dancing DJ [illegible] & special guests spinning Bass Heavy fun and electro. Shattuck Down Low. 9 p.m. free

DJ [illegible] The Layover. 9 p.m. free

DJ Night DJs spinning dancehall, pop, mind-blowing rock, & dance/hip-hop. Kip's Restaurant. 9:30 p.m. free

DJ [illegible]'s [illegible] Happy Hour w/ DJs spinning hip-hop, soul, & funk. Parkway Lounge. 5-8 p.m. free

[illegible] and Lounge w/ hip-hop DJs. Soule Groove. 7:30-11:30 p.m. free

More Listings Online

Get info about hundreds of musical events at EastBayExpress.com or on East BayExpress.mobi

Escape w/ DJ [illegible] The Layover. 10 p.m. free

Friday Night [illegible] w/ guest DJs spinning salsa. La Peña Cultural Center. 10 p.m., $5

Friday Mix Jams w/ DJ [illegible] K. Flores. 10 p.m. $5

Happy Hour w/ DJ Golden Grant spinning punk, rock, indie & roots rock. The Missouri Lounge. 5-8 p.m. free

[illegible] dance dance w/ [illegible]. Club 1220. 9 p.m. $5

Latin Explosion DJ Jorge Gallpas spins cumbia, salsa, merengue, dance, Spanish pop, & house. Bench and Bar. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. $8-$15

Mandala weekly northern DJ salon. Rhythm Music. 7:30 p.m. free

Mighty Irie DJs [illegible], & [illegible] spin reggae, dancehall, & hip-hop. Luka's Taproom & Lounge. 10 p.m., $5 before 11 p.m., $10 after

Old-School hip-hop and funk, oldies, & [illegible]. 9 p.m. free

Quayo Night w/ DJ [illegible] spinning reggae, soca, salsa, & R&B, dancehall. Paradise Club. 10 p.m. ladies free before 11:30 p.m.

Retro-Active dance [illegible] '80s pop night. Kingman's Lucky Lounge. 9 p.m. free

The Spanish [illegible] w/ [illegible] spinning tropical, afro rhythms, Brazilian, guaguanco, salsa, reggae, reggaeton, & electro. The [illegible] Lounge. 10 p.m., free

Sultry Fridays DJ [illegible] spin R&B & soul. Kimball's Carnival. 8 p.m. $5

Testify w/ DJ Jerald Prayers spinning northern soul, Brazilian, 60s, boogie, punk, new wave & [illegible]. Ruby Room. 10 p.m. free

[illegible] Fridays spinning DJ [illegible] spinning [illegible], house, Haitian merengue, dancehall, reggae, bhangra, Arabic music, & more. Conga Lounge. 10 p.m.

SAN FRANCISCO

Quayo & dance costume ball. 2015 Pioneer Nightclub. 9 p.m. $6.5-$30

Boss Time Continuous Club Six. 9 p.m. $5, free before 10 p.m.

DJ Danny Rampin spinning rock, mashup, new wave, R&B, '90s, indie, & pop. Sing Sing Bar. 9 p.m. free

DJ Lebowitz solo piano. Madrone Art Bar. 6-9 p.m. free

Element Fridays w/ rotating DJs spinning hip-hop, R&B, rock, & more. [illegible] Lounge. 9 p.m. $5

Fused hip-hop summer night. [illegible] by DJ White Castle & Bench Presidio. SOCA. 9 p.m. free

Flashback Friday live Sunny Fox, [illegible] & MC & Chelsea Spots spin '80s and hip-hop. The Cellar. 10 p.m. free before, $10 after

Fridays at the [illegible] w/ DJs Camera & Miranda spinning soul, funk, & world. El Rio. 6-9 p.m. free

[illegible] rotating DJs. The EndUp. 10 p.m. $15, free before midnight

Hot Pants w/ DJs Shelton Start, [illegible] Chef & special guest spinning '80s, electro, hip-hop & R&B. Cat Club. 9 p.m. $5

I Heart the 80s w/ DJs Shelton, McKeon, & Sonny Phono spinning hip-hop, dance, alternative, grunge, & reggae. Madrone Art Bar. 9 p.m. $5 after 10 p.m.

[illegible] dance w/ DJ Tom Thump and [illegible] Make Out Room. 10 p.m. $5

Mandala weekly in-house DJ salon. Amnesia Music. 6-9 p.m. free

Paris [illegible] International DJs Sagal and Marco spin reggae, dancehall, hip-hop, soul, & R&B. Little Baobab. 9 p.m., $5

Public Access w/ Gatekeeper, Hype Williams, Teengirl Fantasy and more. Public Works. 9 p.m. $5-$12

Vib. Vibes w/ rotating DJs from the Bay Area and across the world spinning hip-hop, dance. 9 p.m., $10

PICKS

DJ Spooky

Some artists might be perturbed to find they have wider name recognition in the Ivory Tower than in the club circuit, but Paul D. Miller aka DJ Spooky seems to relish it. Not only that, he deliberately circumscribes his music in an academic sphere, with work that references Marshall McLuhan and Jean Cocteau, as well as a slew of avant-garde fusionists (he's apparently a disciple of saxophonist Ornette Coleman). While other turntablists mix and match beats for aesthetic purposes, Spooky is a more deliberate and determined pastiche artist. His 2004 work *Rebirth of a Nation* subverted the original D.W. Griffith film about white supremacy and the founding of the West, and included dance choreography by Bill T. Jones. ("Ivory" tower might actually be a misnomer.) Now he's fixated on technology, access, and the digital divide. He'll discuss those issues and more at a conference called "Swinging and Flowing: Inclusion and Diversity in the Age of Data," which was organized by Greg Niemeyer, Charles Henry, and local DJ Cecil Brown (of People Party fame). Other speakers include local filmmaker Kevin Epps and UC Santa Cruz professor Soraya Murray. Hosted by the adventurously named Center for Information Technology Research in the Interest of Society (CITRIS), the conference takes place in Banatao Auditorium (Sutardja Dai Hall, UC Berkeley) on Thursday, Apr. 26, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., $20. Include.Eventbrite.com — *Rachel Swan*

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[illegible]

www.myspace.com/fflood

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[illegible]

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SAT 4/28
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MON, APRIL 30
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THU 4/26 4:30 pm $5 for party — NATIONAL DANCE WEEK — **CELEBRATE SALSA & ZUMBA** 5:30 [illegible] Zumba class, 7-9 pm Salsa & Bachata, 9 pm-2 am Salsa Dance Party

FRI 4/27 8:30 pm $15 $12 advance — ARGENTINE TANGO — **TRIO GARUFA** CD release party! 9:30 pm [illegible]

SAT 4/28 9:30 pm $13 $10 advance — AFRICAN — **BABA KEN & WEST AFRICAN HIGHLIFE BAND** 9 pm African dance lesson

MON 4/30 10 & 11 am $8 — KIDS SHOW — **BREAKFAST WITH ENZO** Family sing-along fun — every Monday!

TUE 5/1 8:30 pm $12 — ZYDECO — **DWIGHT "BLACK CAT" CARRIER & THE ZYDECO RO DOGGS** 8 pm Cajun-Zydeco dance lesson

THU 5/3 9:00 pm $16 — GRATEFUL DEAD NIGHT — **THE THUGZ** (Tribal Hippie Underground Zone)

FRI 5/4 9:30 pm $12 $10 advance — ROCK/SKA/PUNK — **THE PHENOMENAUTS THE UPTONES SHAKE BE! THE BLOOD TYPES**

SAT 5/5 9:00 pm $10 — REGGAE/BRAZIL/ANTI-HIP HOP — **JUNIOR TOOTS Z'AMICO, JAE HARMONY** Benefit for Occupy Oakland

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SATURDAY 28

EAST BAY

AD Productions & Headstyle Bar spinning R&B & hip-hop. Ruins, 10 p.m. free
The Goodtimes hosted by [illegible]. [illegible], 2 p.m. free
Catch a New Wave [illegible] '80s hits. Conga Lounge. 10 p.m. [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] Maxwell's Lounge, 9 p.m. $20
[illegible] [illegible] hip-hop & R&B. Bench and Bar. 9 p.m. $8 before 11 p.m.
Speedy Fantastico [illegible] hip-hop & house [illegible], 9:30 p.m.-midnight, $5
Dancehall Saturdays w/ [illegible] spinning reggae, dancehall, & hip-hop. The Avenue. 9 p.m. free
"[illegible], Drinks & Dancing" [illegible] & special guests spinning bass heavy fun and electro. Shattuck Down Low. 9 p.m. free
DJ Night DJs spinning [illegible] pop, mind-blowing rock, & urban hip-hop. Kip's Restaurant, 9:30 p.m. free
Downtempo and Lounge w/ [illegible]. 9 p.m., free
Pants Gay The Uptown. 9 p.m. $7
Saturdays [illegible] Night w/ [illegible]. 9 p.m. $8
La [illegible] Latino [illegible] night w/ DJs spinning salsa [illegible]. Club 21. 9 p.m. $6-$10
Magic [illegible] [illegible] Kingman's Lucky Lounge. 9 p.m., free
The People Party The Iron Posh, 9 p.m., $10
Pop [illegible] [illegible] Michael Jackson, [illegible]. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. free
Reggae Gold w/ DJs [illegible]. 10 p.m. $15
Infusion Saturdays [illegible] hip-hop [illegible] Luka's Taproom & Lounge. 10 p.m. $5 before 11 p.m., $10 after
[illegible] Funk w/ [illegible] spinning hip-hop, metal, punk, [illegible] & more. The Missouri Lounge. 10 p.m., free
Mixx-Up w/ [illegible] spinning hip-hop, R&B. The [illegible] Lounge. 9-10 p.m. free

SAN FRANCISCO

Dub [illegible] with [illegible]. Slim's, 10 p.m. $17
[illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] spinning the [illegible] Bay Area club hits. Jitters, 10 p.m. free before 11 p.m. [illegible]
[illegible] Public Works, 1 p.m. $35
DJ [illegible] Swig Bar. 9 p.m., free
DJ [illegible] w/ DJs [illegible] spinning [illegible], reggaeton, salsa, [illegible] and world dance-pop. [illegible] 10 p.m. $8
Element Saturdays w/ [illegible] spinning hip-hop, rock, & mash-ups. Element Lounge, 9 p.m. $10
[illegible] [illegible] spinning hip-hop, dancehall, salsa, merengue, & more. [illegible] 9 p.m., free
[illegible] w/ DJs [illegible] spinning Northern soul and Motown 45s. [illegible] 9 p.m. free before 10 p.m. $8
[illegible] International DJs [illegible] spin reggae, dancehall, hip-hop, soul, & R&B. Little Baobab. 9 p.m. $6
[illegible] Party featuring DJs [illegible] spinning salsa, merengue, [illegible], reggae, cumbia, & Latin [illegible]. 10 p.m.
Reggae Gold SF DJs [illegible] spin reggae dancehall. [illegible], 9 p.m., $10-$15
Dancehall w/ DJs spinning hip-hop and club-bin. The Cellar. 9 p.m., free before 10 p.m. $10 after
Permission DJs [illegible] & [illegible] spin deep soul [illegible]. 10 p.m. $10, free before 11 p.m.

SUNDAY 29

EAST BAY

DJ [illegible] Kingman's Lucky Lounge. 9 p.m., free
King of Kings DJ [illegible] spin reggae dancehall, roots, & lovers rock. Shattuck Down Low. 9 p.m. $10
La Verguenza Bench and Bar. 9 p.m. $8-$10
[illegible] w/ [illegible] spinning soul, funk, & Afrobeat [illegible]. Somar Bar & Lounge. 9 p.m., free
[illegible] DJs [illegible] host a weekly [illegible]. Luka's Taproom & Lounge. 9 p.m. free
Dubs [illegible] Community Works [illegible] 11 a.m.-1 p.m. donations accepted
[illegible] Sundays DJs spin [illegible] reggae. The Hotsy Totsy Club. 7 p.m. free

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible] w/ DJs [illegible] and [illegible]. [illegible] 9 p.m., $8
[illegible] DJ [illegible] reggae [illegible]. Underground SF. 9 p.m. free before 10:30 p.m. $8
Bucky Sundays w/ [illegible]. [illegible] Lounge, 9 p.m. $5 after [illegible]
[illegible] Sundays w/ rotating live bands, salsa. [illegible] 3 p.m., $8
Sunday [illegible] w/ [illegible] & more. The Endup. 6 a.m.-8 p.m. $10
[illegible] [illegible] Lounge, 9 p.m., free

MONDAY 30

EAST BAY

DJ [illegible] Thee Velvet, 9 p.m. free
Monday Night [illegible] featuring [illegible]. The New Parish. 10 p.m., $5
[illegible] DJ [illegible] spinning hip-hop, R&B & [illegible]. Luka's Taproom & Lounge. 9 p.m. free
Underground Lounge [illegible] '50s & piano [illegible] music. [illegible] 10 p.m.-2 a.m., free
[illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] spinning rock and roll, soft [illegible], oldies, & soul. The [illegible] Lounge. 10 p.m., free

SAN FRANCISCO

DJ [illegible] spinning classic soul, rare [illegible] & down-tempo. Swig Bar. 9 p.m. free
I [illegible] Monday [illegible] & guests spin hits and [illegible] from the '70s to today. Underground SF. 10 p.m. free
Karaoke Monday [illegible] the Karaoke [illegible]. The Cellar. 9 p.m. free
[illegible] classic soul, funk, hip-hop, reggae, [illegible], Afrobeat, & more. [illegible] 10 p.m. $3
[illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] plus lessons. Cafe Cocomo. 7:30 p.m. $5, lessons $10
[illegible] [illegible] Love Songs from The [illegible], and [illegible] 7 p.m. [illegible] free
[illegible] Vinyl w/ DJ [illegible] spinning an eclectic mix of vinyl. [illegible] 9 p.m.-2 a.m. $2
Skylarking w/ DJs Mr. Lucky & [illegible] spinning [illegible], dancehall, and reggae. Skylark. 9:30 p.m., free
Spliff [illegible] w/ [illegible] spinning funk, soul, hip-hop, '80s Boogie, jazz, Latin, and Afrobeat. [illegible] 10 p.m., free

TUESDAY 1

EAST BAY

Country Music Night plus live spinning. Club 1220. 8 p.m. free
DJ Night DJs spinning [illegible] pop, mind-blowing rock, & urban hip-hop. Kip's Restaurant. 9:30 p.m. free
DJ [illegible] spinning punk. Lost Weekend Lounge. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. free
Lounge [illegible] night featuring DJ Speedy & DJ [illegible]. Club 21. 9 p.m., free
[illegible] Vinyl Thee Velvet. 9 p.m. free
Soul [illegible] DJs [illegible] spinning reggae & world sound. Luka's Taproom & Lounge. 9 p.m. free
[illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] spinning indie, punk, [illegible]. The Missouri Lounge. 10 p.m. free

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible] [illegible] spin reggae, dancehall, hip-hop. [illegible] 11 p.m., $8, 10 p.m. $5
[illegible] w/ [illegible]. 9 p.m. $6
DJs [illegible] spinning [illegible] beats, underground hip-hop, & silky grooves. Swig Bar. 9 p.m. free
Old School Hip-Hop & SF [illegible] [illegible] 9 p.m. $5
Pacific [illegible] hip-hop & soul w/ DJ [illegible] plus live [illegible]. 10 p.m. $5
[illegible] w/ DJs [illegible] plus MC [illegible]. Underground SF. 9 p.m. $5
The Punk Rock [illegible] [illegible] live bands, plus DJs [illegible] spinning punk rock at the Night Lounge. The Knockout. 10 p.m. $8
Roadhouse Dancehall [illegible], 9 p.m., $5
[illegible] w/ DJs [illegible] & guests spinning '80s and early '90s hip-hop. The Cellar. 10 p.m., $4

WEDNESDAY 2

EAST BAY

[illegible] Thee Velvet, 9 p.m., free
[illegible] w/ [illegible]. The Missouri Lounge. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. free
The Jet Set w/ DJ [illegible] special guests. Luka's Taproom & Lounge. 9 p.m. free
The [illegible] w/ DJs spinning [illegible]. Club 21. 9 p.m., $6-$15
[illegible] dancehall w/ DJ [illegible]. The Layover. 9 p.m. free
[illegible] Night featuring [illegible] spinning metal and more. [illegible] 10 p.m. free
[illegible] open mic poetry, followed by DJ music. [illegible] 8-10 p.m.
[illegible] featuring DJ [illegible]. 9 p.m. free
Permission Latin [illegible] night w/ [illegible]. Bench and Bar. 7 p.m., $8-$15
[illegible] Punk, indie, new wave, & [illegible] and w/ DJ [illegible]. 10 p.m.-2 a.m., free
[illegible] Wednesdays poetry, open mic, and live DJ. [illegible] 10 p.m., free

SAN FRANCISCO

1032 Night [illegible] spin North African & Middle Eastern [illegible]. Underground SF. 9 p.m. $8
Bossa [illegible] spin Brazilian, Latin, Afrobeat, & more. [illegible] 10 p.m. free
Brand New Wednesdays w/ [illegible] spinning [illegible] hip-hop, reggae, R&B, & more. [illegible] 10 p.m. free
DJ [illegible] spinning [illegible] beats, new-school soul, underground hip-hop, & stripped-down Afro-fusion. Swig Bar. 9 p.m., free
DJ [illegible] spinning salsa & reggaetón. Little Baobab. 9 p.m. $3
Lounge DJs spin hip-hop, R&B, reggae, & [illegible]. The Cellar. 10 p.m., free
[illegible] Happy Hour The Knockout. 6-9 p.m. free
[illegible] Wednesday DJs [illegible] spin [illegible], hip-hop, reggae, funk, & soul. Skylark. 10 p.m., $5
Satellite w/ rotating guest DJs. [illegible] 9 p.m. free before 10 p.m. $8

AQUARIUM AGE

A FERTILE ASTRAL GARDEN

For the week of April 25-May 1, 2012

By Ralfee Finn

It's another week of planetary déjà vu, so don't be surprised if you feel as if you've been here (wherever that might be) before, or if you feel that you're reading the very same column you read nearly two months ago. Mars is moving forward, and as a result we're plowing through certain astral fields — again. But don't let the familiarities fool you into thinking that this repeat performance is exact. There are too many variations on the theme to make it the "same old same old." Pay careful attention to the details as well as the differences, and use this time to make the necessary on-demand course corrections. The skies provide a strong undercurrent of positive energy and as we are pulled along, there are real opportunities to make tangible progress toward your goals. Just don't expect instantaneous results. This dynamic signature occurs in Earth Signs, which are notorious for taking the appropriate amount of time to get the job done right.

The source of this powerful yet familiar pattern is a Grand Trine between the Sun in Taurus, Mars in Virgo, and Pluto in Capricorn. We experienced a similar configuration in early March, when the gorgeous Venus/Jupiter conjunction in Taurus also formed a trine to both Mars and Pluto. While this week's combination lacks the grace of Venus and the expansiveness of Jupiter, it is still extraordinarily fertile and has the potential to support whatever you are determined to bring into being. The planetary concentration in Earth Signs is the equivalent of a rich and fertile astral garden. The Sun and Mars provide the ambition, vigor and determination to grow, and Pluto endows the nature bundle with the capacity to make exceptional efforts. You provide the seeds — physical, mental, emotional and spiritual. Make an extra effort to plant with a clean intention of what it is you want to grow. Also note: Pluto can tilt minds as well as hearts toward a ruthless attitude that wants success at any cost; the best way to avoid being sucked into a Plutonian vortex of fanaticism is to simultaneously cultivate a wholesome attitude toward the outcome.

As with any actual garden, these seeds will require careful tending. Sunlight, rain and fertilizer are all necessary components for a successful harvest. So as you are planting your seeds, try to assess how much work will be necessary for your astral garden to grow. In some cases all that's necessary is a strong and clear intention; in others, a beautiful harvest is dependent upon time and energy. And in cases of collaboration, success relies on a combination of factors, some known and others often surprising. Whatever your personal garden plan might be, try to include an openhearted patch that grows genuine compassion and concern for the well being of your fellow travelers.

If you know your Ascendant and/or your Moon Sign, read that, too.

ARIES Be authentic and direct about what you need to feel safe and secure, and don't be self-conscious if practical matters outweigh all others. Acknowledging your survival needs is the first step in getting those needs met.

TAURUS Your creative light only shines more brightly this week, and as you share your ideas, you're an inspiration to others. Encourage everyone you come into contact with to seize their creative moment, and that generosity of spirit will be returned to you many fold.

GEMINI There are certain secrets, yours or others', that may need to be shared for the benefit of all concerned parties — but before you spill the beans, consider the consequences of your candor and how you will handle them.

CANCER The emphasis is still on conversations with significant others, specifically learning how to handle deep seated issues of power and control. As you dialogue, try to keep in mind that the need to control is directly proportional to the ability to trust.

LEO Whether they are career-related or matters of the heart, continue to make the most of your opportunities to dial up a new perspective. Steer clear of negativity by keeping yourself aligned with a deep sense of gratitude and you'll find the results to be amazing.

VIRGO You're definitely in the leadership position and your only mission is to be a brilliant benevolent despot. Inspire your followers by your kind and compassionate example and you will accomplish your goals.

LIBRA There's no need to rush your personal process. The "work" of the week is more internal than external, especially as you reflect on what it is you truly want to grow during this incredibly fertile time.

SCORPIO Before you turn impulse into action, give yourself permission to digest and metabolize your intuition. I'm not suggesting you hold back. I'm simply advising you to deepen your self awareness.

SAGITTARIUS There are no obvious obstacles to your direct forward motion, so be clear about where you want to go and why. Once you've prioritized your intention, devote yourself to your path.

CAPRICORN The procrastination period is behind you, and this is the perfect week to take charge of all those areas of life where you've put off dealing with "challenges" that seemed to have no solution.

AQUARIUS It's another week of feeling deeply settled and centered, inside and out. Take advantage of this opportunity and use it to identify and memorize the key elements of composure so you can replicate it at will.

PISCES The emphasis is still on conversations with significant others, especially dialogue devoted to figuring out how to meet individual needs without resorting to a misplaced sense of sacrifice. ●

For More Info

Ralfee Finn specializes in Transformational Astrology. For readings, call 1-888-537-9284 or write P.O. Box 343, New York, NY 10025; visit AquariumAge.com, or e-mail Ralfee@AquariumAge.com. Copyright © 2012 by Ralfee Finn.

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LEGAL NOTICES

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 462337
The following individual is doing business as **Bird DeRado** [illegible] 2330 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, CA 94704. Mailing Address: same as above is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible] Corporation 1836 Summit Ct., Richmond, CA 94806. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on [illegible]/2011
Bird DeRado
4/4, 4/11, 4/18, 4/25, 2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 462973
The following individual is doing business as **Sophie's Flowers and Gifts** Street Address: [illegible] Alameda, CA 94502. Mailing Address: same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner: Jennifer [illegible] Alameda, CA 94502. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 1/1/2012. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on [illegible]/2011
Sophie's Flowers and Gifts
4/4, 4/11, 4/18, 4/25/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 463085
The following individual is doing business as [illegible] Street Address: 4305 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, CA 94609. Mailing Address: same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible] Oakland, CA 94607. The business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on [illegible]/2012. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on [illegible]/2012
[illegible]
4/4, 4/11, 4/18, 4/25/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 463544
The following individual is doing business as [illegible] Street Address: 4000 Glenwood Street Fremont, CA 94538. Mailing Address: same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible] Fremont, CA 94538. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 4/03/2011
[illegible] Facility Service Group
4/11, 4/18, 4/25, 5/2/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 463379
The following individual is doing business as **[illegible] Facility Service Group** Street Address: [illegible] Fremont, CA 94538. Mailing Address: same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner: Edgar J. [illegible] Fremont, CA 94538. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 4/04/2012
[illegible] Facility Service Group
4/11, 4/18, 4/25, 5/2/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 463346
The following individual is doing business as **Good Job Company** Street Address: [illegible] Fremont, CA 94536. Mailing Address: same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible] Fremont, CA 94536. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 4/5/2011
Good Job Company
4/18, 4/25, 5/2, 5/9/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # [illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **[illegible]** Street Address: [illegible] Berkeley, CA 94702. Mailing Address: [illegible] Berkeley, CA 94705, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible] Berkeley, CA 94702. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on [illegible]/2011. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on [illegible]/2011
[illegible]
4/18, 4/25, 5/2, 5/9/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # [illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **[illegible]** Street Address: [illegible] Berkeley, CA 94702. Mailing Address: [illegible] Berkeley, CA 94705, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible] Berkeley, CA 94705. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 2008. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 4/[illegible]/2012
[illegible]
4/18, 4/25, 5/2, 5/9/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 463842
The following individual is doing business as **[illegible]** Street Address: [illegible] Alameda, CA 94501. Mailing Address: same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible] Alameda, CA 94501. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on [illegible]/12. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 4/[illegible]/12
[illegible]
4/25, 5/2, 5/9, 5/16/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # [illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **[illegible] INC.** Street Address: [illegible] San Leandro, CA 94580. Mailing Address: same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible] INC. [illegible] San Leandro, CA 94580. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on [illegible]/2011. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on [illegible]/2011
[illegible] INC.
4/18, 4/25, 5/2, 5/9/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # [illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **[illegible] LLC** Street Address: [illegible] Oakland, CA 94611. Mailing Address: same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible] LLC [illegible] Oakland, CA 94611. This business is conducted by a Limited liability company. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 3/12/2012
[illegible] LLC
4/13, 4/20, 5/9, 5/16/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # [illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **[illegible]** Street Address: [illegible] Berkeley, CA 94704. Mailing Address: same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible] Properties Berkeley LLC [illegible] Berkeley, CA 94704. This business is conducted by a Limited liability company. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on [illegible]/2007. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 4/[illegible]/11
[illegible]
4/25, 5/2, 5/9, 5/16/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # [illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **[illegible]** Street Address: [illegible] Oakland, CA 94612. Mailing Address: same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible] Oakland, CA 94612. The business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 4/15/11. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 4/15/11
[illegible]
4/25, 5/2, 5/9, 5/16/2012

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # [illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **[illegible] Tours** Street Address: [illegible] Ocean View Dr., Oakland, CA 94618. Mailing Address: same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible] Ocean View Dr., Oakland, CA 94618. The business is conducted by an individual. The business began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 3/[illegible]/12. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on [illegible]
[illegible] Tours
4/25, 5/2, 5/9, 5/16/2012

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER [illegible]
Superior Court of California, County of Alameda
1225 Fallon Street
Oakland, CA 94612
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner: [illegible] KNECHT filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present name: [illegible] KNECHT to Proposed Name: GARY KNECHT. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted.
NOTICE OF HEARING:
June 8, 2012 at 9:30 A.M. in Dept. [illegible], at 201 13th St., 2nd Floor, Oakland, CA 94612. A copy of this Order To Show Cause shall be published at least once a week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: East Bay Express. [illegible] Dated: [illegible] 2012 Signed: [illegible] Judge of the Superior Court
4/4, 4/11, 4/18, 4/25/2012

Need to Publish a Legal Notice?
[illegible]
East Bay Express
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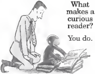
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NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE Trustee Sale No. CA 10-2241 BS Title Order No. 100483242-CA LMI APN 049 1340-004-00 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 5/11/2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On 5/16/2012 at 12:30 PM, Household Financial Corporation as the duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust recorded 5/15/2006, as Instrument No. 2006192821 in Book xxx, Page xxx of official records in the Office of the Recorder of ALAMEDA County, California, executed by: MIRONDA LEWIS AND PHILLIP LEWIS, WIFE AND HUSBAND, as Trustor, HOUSEHOLD FINANCE CORPORATION OF CALIFORNIA, A CORPORATION (Original Lender) and HOUSEHOLD FINANCE CORPORATION OF CALIFORNIA, as current Servicer/Lender WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH (payable at time of sale in lawful money of the United States, by cash, a cashier's check drawn by a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state). At: At the main street entrance to the County Courthouse, 1225 Fallon Street, Oakland, CA 94612, all right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County, California describing the land therein: "AS MORE FULLY DESCRIBED IN THE ABOVE MENTIONED DEED OF TRUST" The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 967 60TH ST EMERYVILLE (AKA) OAKLAND, CA 94608 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, if any, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust, to-wit: $584,304.31 (Estimated). Accrued interest and additional advances, if any, will increase this figure prior to sale. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (714) 730-2727 or visit this Internet Web site WWW.LPS-ASAP.COM, using the file number assigned to this case TS# CA-10-2241 BS. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. CONDITION OF SALE: The successful bidder will be required to pay county documentary transfer tax, any city tax, and any other applicable taxes or fees (including, but not limited to, the fee for recording Preliminary Change of Ownership report) to the next owner at the time of sale. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee and the purchaser shall have no further recourse. The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located and more than three months have elapsed since such recordation. DATE: 4/18/2012 Household Financial Corporation P.O. Box 60145 City of Industry, CA 91716 For Sale Information: 714 730-2727 www.lpsasap.com TO NOTIFY TRUSTEE OF BANKRUPTCY FILINGS, PLEASE FAX FACE PAGE OF BANKRUPTCY PETITION TO (909) 397 3914 Betty Schwab, Trustee Sale Officer THIS OFFICE MAY BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED MAY BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. As required by law, you are hereby notified that a negative credit report reflecting on your credit record may be submitted to a credit report agency if you fail to fulfill the terms of your credit obligations. A-4234106 04/25/2012, 05/02/2012, 05/09/2012

SAVAGE LOVE

HOW TO HANDLE A HOOKUP

Plus vanilla sex and squirting.

By Dan Savage

Is it possible for a hookup to turn into a relationship?

Hoping One Person Enters

A hookup is a relationship. It may be short term, but it's a relationship regardless.

And, yes, a short-term hookup can turn into a long-term relationship, HOPE, but not if you're treating your hookups like shit (because they're only hookups!) and not if you're willing to let the people you hook up with treat you like shit (because you're only a hookup). Treat your hookups like people you might actually see again — like human beings with human feelings, not just human holes and/or poles — and you might actually see them again. You might even wind up in a long-term relationship.

Now, sometimes people hook up with strangers precisely because they wanna have sex with someone they don't know and don't expect to see again. And that's not always a bad idea. Having sex with someone who you don't expect to see again can be very liberating. A girl who can't let herself go with a guy she's dating — maybe she fears being slut- or nympho-shamed by a boyfriend — will grind the dick off a hookup. And it can be easier to ask someone you don't expect to see again to do something kinky. Say a straight boy has always wanted a girl to put him in her panties and peg his ass. He could ask a girlfriend to do that for him, sure, but the stakes are higher. What if she freaks out and dumps him and blabs to her friends — and his — about why she dumped him?

People who divide the fuckable world into those they care about (and can't open up to sexually) and those they don't care about (and can open up to sexually but won't date) wind up having awesome sex with people they don't know and lousy sex with people they marry. That's not a good strategy.

So here's what you should do, HOPE. Be uninhibited with your hookups while treating them like people you might actually see again and insist on being treated that way in return. Don't hook up with people who treat you like shit, don't treat the people you hook up with like shit. Even if you know you're not going to see someone again — maybe they're not someone you would date or circumstances are such that you couldn't date them even if you wanted to (business trip, European vacation, spring break, etc.) — treat your hookups with kindness, respect and gratitude.

Finally, HOPE, some people treat hookups like shit — only after they've come, natch — because they want their hookups to understand that they're not interested in a relationship. That's not just assholery, assholes, it's completely unnecessary assholery. If someone was kind enough to suck your dick or fuck your brains out — if someone hooked up with your ass — a little kindness and consideration isn't too much to ask. If you're worried that your hookup might misinterpret "kindness and consideration" for "I want to be with you forever," tell them — gently and directly — that you're not interested in a relationship.

Straight guy here. For the first time in my life, I am with someone who understands how much my work is a part of who I am. (I travel for research and come home and agonize over writing it up.) We have a caring and affectionate relationship. She told me at the start that she has never had an orgasm and she didn't believe in masturbation. I knew then that the sex would be vanilla, but I didn't realize that a year later, it would be more vanilla and less frequent. I'm going out of my mind. In the early months, we discussed open relationships. Her view was that she wasn't interested, but if I cheated it would be fine as long as she never found out. At the time, it sounded like a trap; now it sounds like an option. Help!

Sex Too Underwhelming, Can't Kontinue

Since an honest open relationship is off the table, STUCK, I'm gonna urge you to DTMFA. (I'm not saying your girlfriend is an MF — heavens no — but DTMFA is the term of art around here.) I'm thinking you'll have an easier time getting a girl who likes sex to understand how important your work is to you than you'll have getting this girl to understand how important sex is to you. You and your current girlfriend simply aren't sexually compatible, STUCK, and sexual compatibility matters when you're picking a sex partner. Duh. DTMFA.

I am a girl and I am stuck. My boyfriend and I have been dating for nine months, and I only recently told him I can squirt. When we would have sex before, I would tell him to stop before I came because I didn't want to squirt. Now that he knows, he thinks it's really hot that I can and wants me to do it. But I can't get to that point anymore. I have a vibrator, and when I masturbate, I can squirt. But even with me, or him, stimulating my clit while having sex, I just won't do it and I don't know why.

What Should I Do?

You should relax. I'm not saying that you'll squirt the next time you fuck your boyfriend if you can just relax, but you'll get there sooner if you relax about whether or not you're squirting.

And let's remember why you weren't squirting with the boyfriend. You were worried that he might react negatively or think it was gross. Not squirting was something you were doing for him. Now that you know he's into it, you want to squirt for him. Stop thinking about him and start thinking about yourself.

You trained your body not to come when you were with your boyfriend, and it's going to take some time to undo that training. But if you can squirt when you masturbate alone, WSID, you can squirt with your boyfriend. And here's how you can get there: Masturbate with your boyfriend in the house but not in your room. Then do it with him in the room but not in the bed with you—and hey, put a blindfold on him if you're self-conscious about him watching you. Then masturbate with him in the bed with you blindfolded. Then masturbate with him in the bed with you not blindfolded. Then masturbate with him in the bed and not blindfolded and touching you, then with him in the bed holding you, then with him in the bed helping you. Relax, enjoy, have fun, and you'll get there, WSID. I promise. ●

Find the Savage Lovecast (my weekly podcast) every Tuesday at TheStranger.com/savage.
mail@savagelove.net

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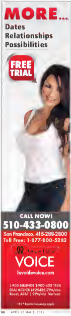
NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE Trustee Sale No. 455332CA Loan No. 3012299058 Title Order No. 594[illegible]29 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 10-03-2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On 05-16-2012 at 12:30 PM, CALIFORNIA RECONVEYANCE COMPANY as the duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust Recorded 10-12-2006, Book N/A, Page N/A, Instrument 2006381210, of official records in the Office of the Recorder of ALAMEDA County, California, executed by: ROBERTO C PEREZ AND, AVELINA A PEREZ, HUSBAND AND WIFE, as Trustor, WASHINGTON MUTUAL BANK, FA, as Beneficiary, will sell at public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn by a state or national bank, a cashier's check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a cashier's check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state. Sale will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to the Deed of Trust. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Place of Sale: THE FALLON STREET ENTRANCE TO THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 1225 FALLON STREET, OAKLAND, CA Legal Description: A CONDOMINIUM COMPRISED OF: PARCEL ONE: AN UNDIVIDED [illegible] INTEREST IN LOT 1, AS SAID LOT IS SHOWN ON THE MAP OF "TRACT 4142", FILED APRIL [illegible] 1979, MAP BOOK 110, PAGE 22 AND 28, IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY RECORDER OF ALAMEDA COUNTY. EXCEPTING THEREFROM: A. ALL THE UNITS AS SAID UNITS ARE DEFINED IN THE DECLARATION OF CONDOMINIUM DATED SEPTEMBER 24, 1978, RECORDED OCTOBER 10, 1978, INSTRUMENT NO. 78-204[illegible] IN THE OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF ALAMEDA COUNTY AND SHOWN ON THE PLAN ATTACHED THERETO AS EXHIBIT "A". B. THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO POSSESSION AND OCCUPANCY OF THOSE PORTIONS OF SAID LOT DEFINED AS BALCONIES OR PATIOS AND DESIGNATED WITH A "P" ON THE PLAN ABOVE REFERRED TO. PARCEL TWO: UNIT 360, AS SHOWN ON THE PLAN ABOVE REFERRED TO. PARCEL THREE: THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO POSSESSION AND OCCUPANCY OF THOSE AREAS DEFINED AS BALCONIES OR PATIOS AND DESIGNATED "P" ON THE PLAN ABOVE REFERRED TO ADJACENT TO PARCEL TWO ABOVE FOR THE BENEFIT OF AND APPURTENANT TO PARCELS ONE AND TWO ABOVE. PARCEL FOUR: A NON-EXCLUSIVE EASEMENT FOR VEHICULAR AND PEDESTRIAN INGRESS AND EGRESS, APPURTENANT TO AND FOR THE BENEFIT OF PREMISES, AS SET FORTH IN INSTRUMENT NO. 78-96761, RECORDED MAY 24, 1978, ALAMEDA COUNTY RECORDS. PARCEL FIVE: A NON-EXCLUSIVE EASEMENT FOR VEHICULAR AND PEDESTRIAN INGRESS AND EGRESS, APPURTENANT TO AND FOR THE BENEFIT OF PREMISES, AS SET FORTH IN INSTRUMENT NO. 78-96761, RECORDED MAY 24, 1978, ALAMEDA COUNTY RECORDS. PARCEL SIX: A NON-EXCLUSIVE EASEMENT FOR STORM DRAINAGE FACILITIES, APPURTENANT TO AND FOR THE BENEFIT OF PREMISES, AS SET FORTH IN INSTRUMENT NO. 78-96763, RECORDED MAY 24, 1978, ALAMEDA COUNTY RECORDS. Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: $189,637.30 (estimated) Street address and other common designation of the real property: 3 ADMIRAL DRIVE UNIT F360 EMERYVILLE, CA 94608 APN Number: 049-1529-323-00 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". In compliance with California Civil Code 2923.5(c) the mortgagee, trustee, beneficiary, or authorized agent declares: that it has contacted the borrower(s) to assess their financial situation and to explore options to avoid foreclosure; or that it has made efforts to contact the borrower(s) to assess their financial situation and to explore options to avoid foreclosure by one of the following methods: by telephone; by United States mail; either 1st class or certified; by overnight delivery; by personal delivery; by e-mail; by face to face meeting. DATE: 04-25-2012 CALIFORNIA RECONVEYANCE COMPANY, as Trustee CASEY KEALOHA, ASSISTANT SECRETARY CALIFORNIA RECONVEYANCE COMPANY IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. California Reconveyance Company 9200 Oakdale Avenue Mail Stop: CA2-4379 Chatsworth, CA 91311 800-892-6902 For Sales Information: (714) 730-2727 or www.lpsasap.com or (714) 573-1965 or www.priorityposting.com THE FOLLOWING NOTICE APPLIES TO PROPERTIES CONTAINING ONE TO FOUR SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCES ONLY. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, this information can be obtained from one of the following two companies: LPS Agency Sales & Posting at (714) 730-2727 or visit the Internet Web site www.lpsasap.com (Registration required to search for sale information) or Priority Posting & Publishing at (714) 573-1965 or visit the Internet Web site www.priorityposting.com (Click on the link for "Advanced Search" to search for sale information), using the Trustee Sale No. shown above. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. A-4228607 04/25/2012, 05/02/2012, 05/09/2012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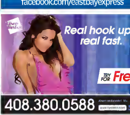
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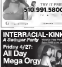
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NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE APN: 049-1325-107-00 TS No: CA09000415-11-1 TO No: 5360086 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED July 20, 2005. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On May 14, 2012 at 12:30 PM, at the Fallon Street entrance to the County Courthouse, 1225 Fallon Street, Oakland, CA, MTC FINANCIAL INC. dba TRUSTEE CORPS, as the duly Appointed Trustee, under and pursuant to the power of sale contained in that certain Deed of Trust Recorded on July 28, 2005 as Instrument No. 2005321127 of official records in the Office of the Recorder of Alameda County, California, executed by TERRY LINDSEY, AN UNMARRIED MAN, as Trustor(s), in favor of WASHINGTON MUTUAL BANK, FA, A FEDERAL ASSOCIATION as Beneficiary, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER, in lawful money of the United States, all payable at the time of sale, that certain property situated in said County, California describing the land therein as: AS MORE FULLY DESCRIBED IN SAID DEED OF TRUST The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 5855 HORTON STREET 607, EMERYVILLE, CA 94608 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the Note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said Note(s), advances if any, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligations secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of this Notice of Trustee's Sale is estimated to be $208,236.60 (Estimated), provided, however, prepayment premiums, accrued interest and advances will increase this figure prior to sale. Beneficiary's bid at said sale may include all or part of said amount. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept a cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the California Financial Code and authorized to do business in California, or other such funds as may be acceptable to the trustee. In the event tender other than cash is accepted, the Trustee may withhold the issuance of the Trustee's Deed Upon Sale until funds become available to the payee or endorsee as a matter of right. The property offered for sale excludes all funds held on account by the property receiver, if applicable. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. DATE: April 12, 2012 TRUSTEE CORPS TS No. CA09000415-11-1 17100 Gillette Ave, Irvine, CA 92614 949-252-8300 [illegible] Aguilar, Authorized Signatory SALE INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED ON LINE AT www.[illegible] AUTOMATED SALES INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 714-730-2727 TRUSTEE CORPS MAY BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED MAY BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. Notice to Potential Bidders: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a Trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a Trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same Lender may hold more than one mortgage or Deed of Trust on the property. Notice to Property Owner: The sale date shown on this Notice of Sale may be postponed one or more times by the Mortgagee, Beneficiary, Trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about Trustee Sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call [illegible] telephone number for information regarding the Trustee's Sale or visit the Internet Web site address [illegible] page for information regarding the sale of this property, using the file number assigned to this case, CA09000415-11-1. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. A-4223069 04/18/2012, 04/25/2012, 05/02/2012

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